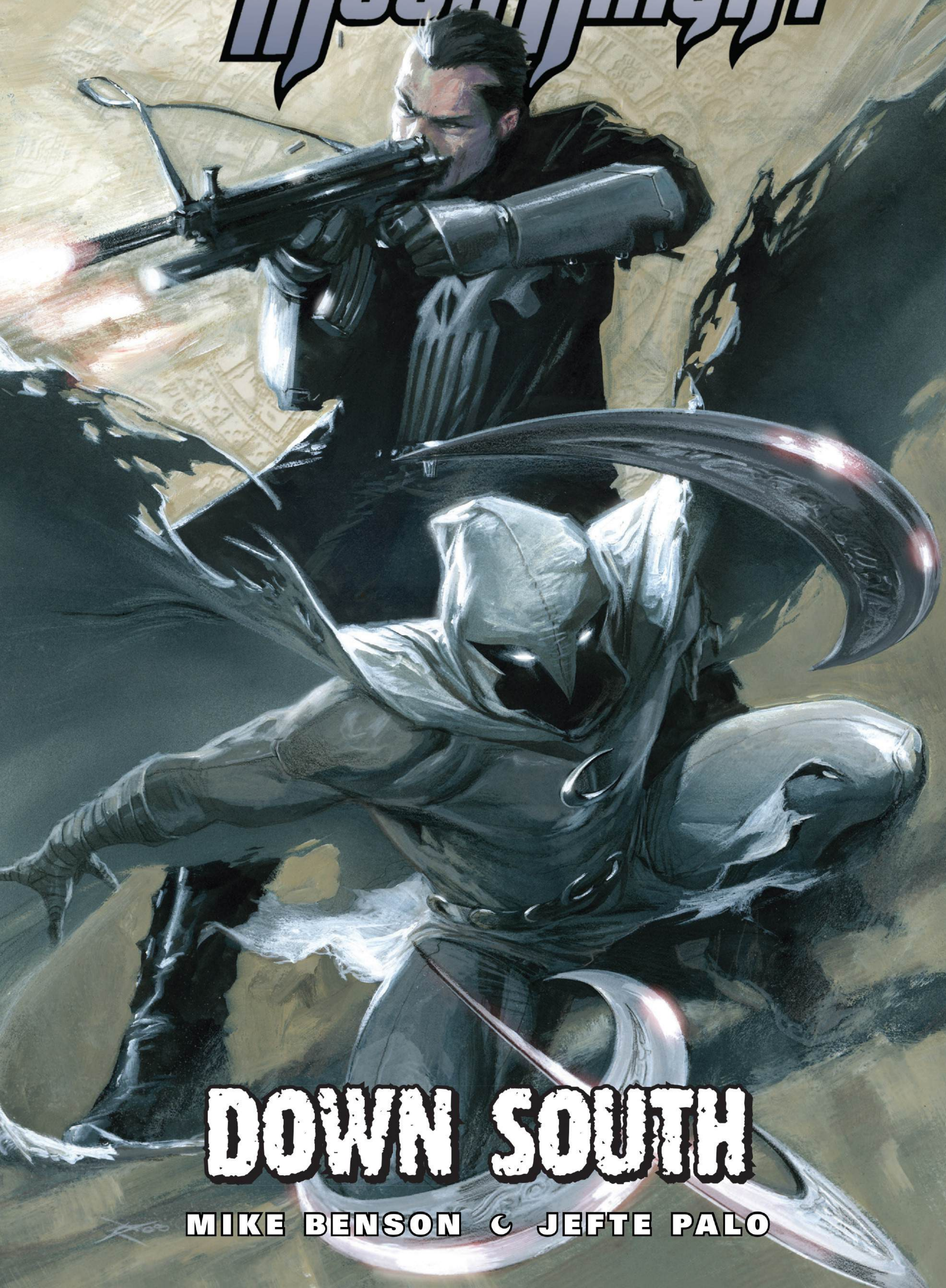


MARVEL

MOON KNIGHT



DOWN SOUTH

MIKE BENSON © JEFTE PALO

MOON KNIGHT

DOWN SOUTH



MOON KNIGHT

DOWN SOUTH

Writer: Mike Benson

Artist: Jefte Palo

Colorist: Lee Loughridge

*Letterer: Virtual Calligraphy's
Joe Caramagna*

Cover Artist: Gabriele Dell'Otto

Assistant Editor: Jody LeHeup

Editor: Axel Alonso

Collection Editor: Alex Starbuck

Assistant Editors: Cory Levine & John Denning

Editors, Special Projects: Jennifer Grünwald & Mark D. Beazley

Senior Editor, Special Projects: Jeff Youngquist

Senior Vice President of Sales: David Gabriel

Production: Jerry Kalinowski

Digital Manager/Production: Tim Smith 3

Digital Production: Kou Chen & Meghan O'Leary

Editor in Chief: Joe Quesada

Publisher: Dan Buckley

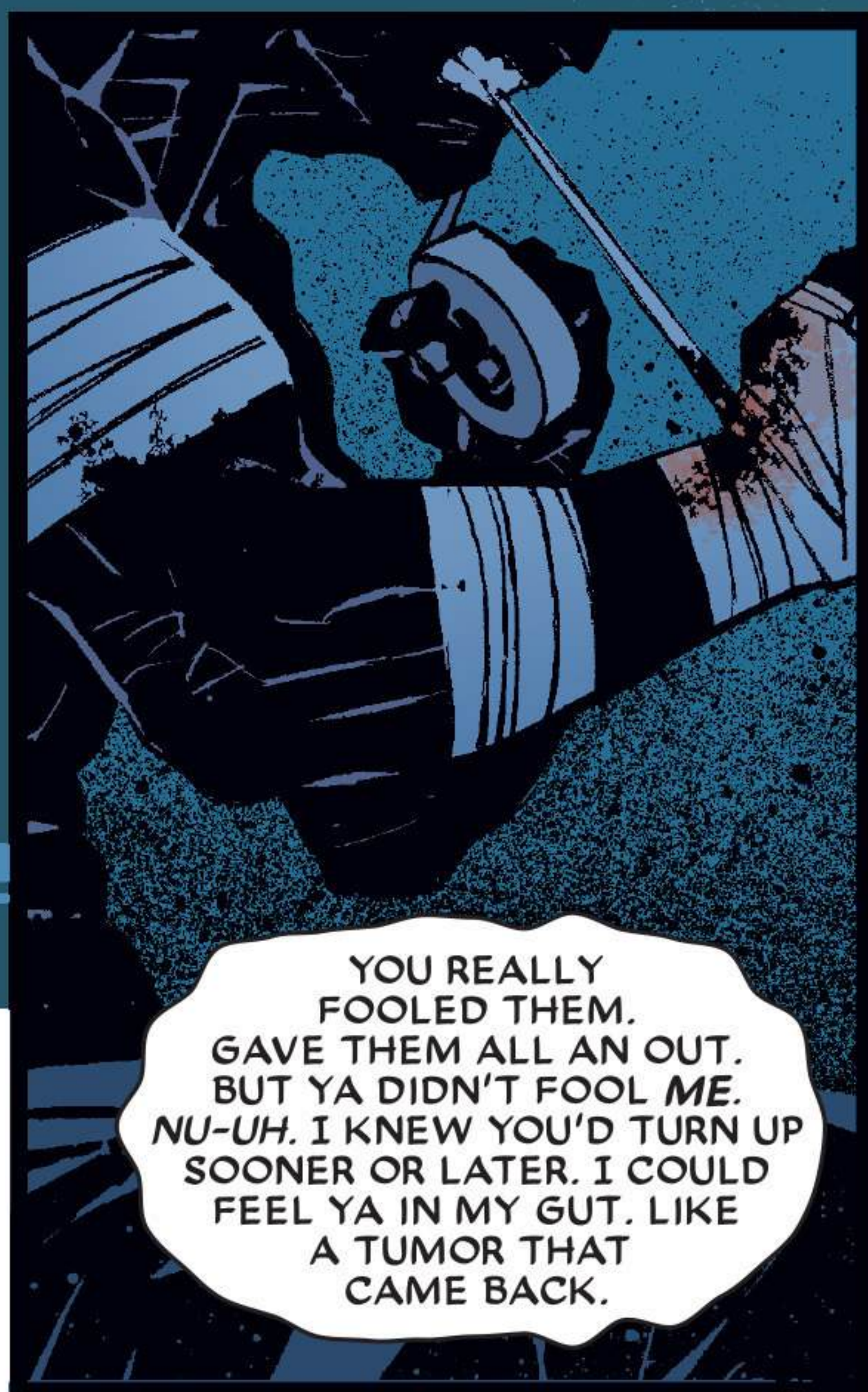
Executive Producer: Alan Fine



MOON KNIGHT

70
YEARS
OF
MARVEL
COMICS
26

BENSON
PALO
LOUGHRIDGE



YOU REALLY
FOOLED THEM.
GAVE THEM ALL AN OUT.
BUT YA DIDN'T FOOL *ME*.
NU-UH. I KNEW YOU'D TURN UP
SOONER OR LATER. I COULD
FEEL YA IN MY GUT. LIKE
A TUMOR THAT
CAME BACK.

BY THE WAY,
I TOOK A LOOKSKY-
LOO OUT THERE. HE'S
A *BIG* ONE. ARMS LIKE TREE
TRUNKS. AN EX-LUCHADORES.
BRAGGING HOW HE TOOK DOWN
A GRIZZLY BEAR--BROKE ITS
SPINE. YOU THROW IN A
DONKEY SHOW--WHO
NEEDS CABLE? GOT
MY \$49.99.

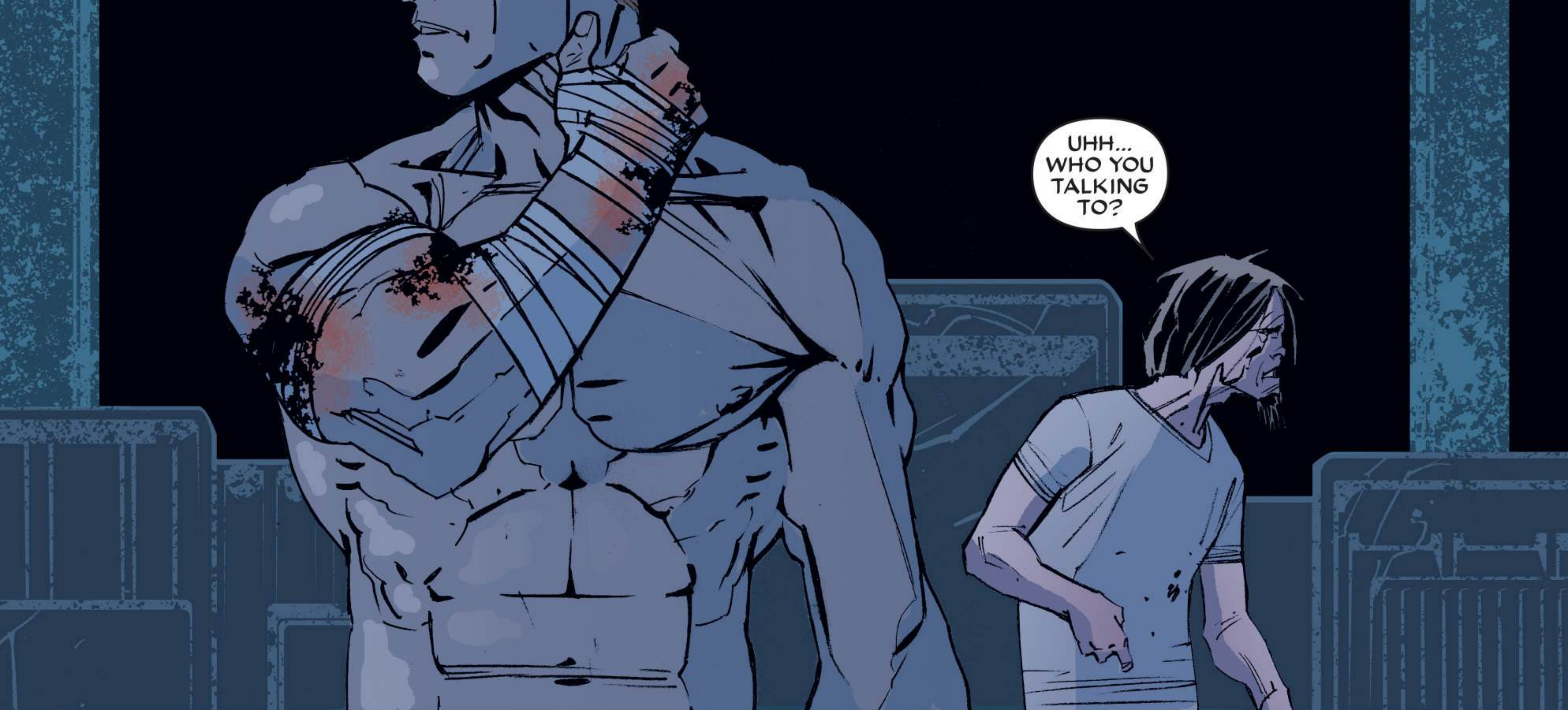


HEY, HEY,
PANCHO VILLA,
SLOW DOWN! YOU
NEED TO BE SHARP OR
THIS GUY'LL OPEN
YOU UP LIKE A
PIÑATA.

YOU.
=BURP.=

HEY!
LOOK AT
THAT! WE'RE
TALKING
AGAIN.





UHH...
WHO YOU
TALKING
TO?



NOBODY.

AMIGO,
YOU GOT TWO
MINUTES. BETTER
GET YOUR HEAD
STRAIGHT.



LITTLE
BEANER KNOWS
YOU FOR ALL OF TWO
SECONDS AND HE'S
TELLING YOU TO
PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER. I
LOVE IT.



DON'T YOU
EVER SHUT
THE #####
UP?



HEY! IT'S
THAT ATTITUDE
THAT LANDED YOU
HERE. IN THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE,
JAKE.

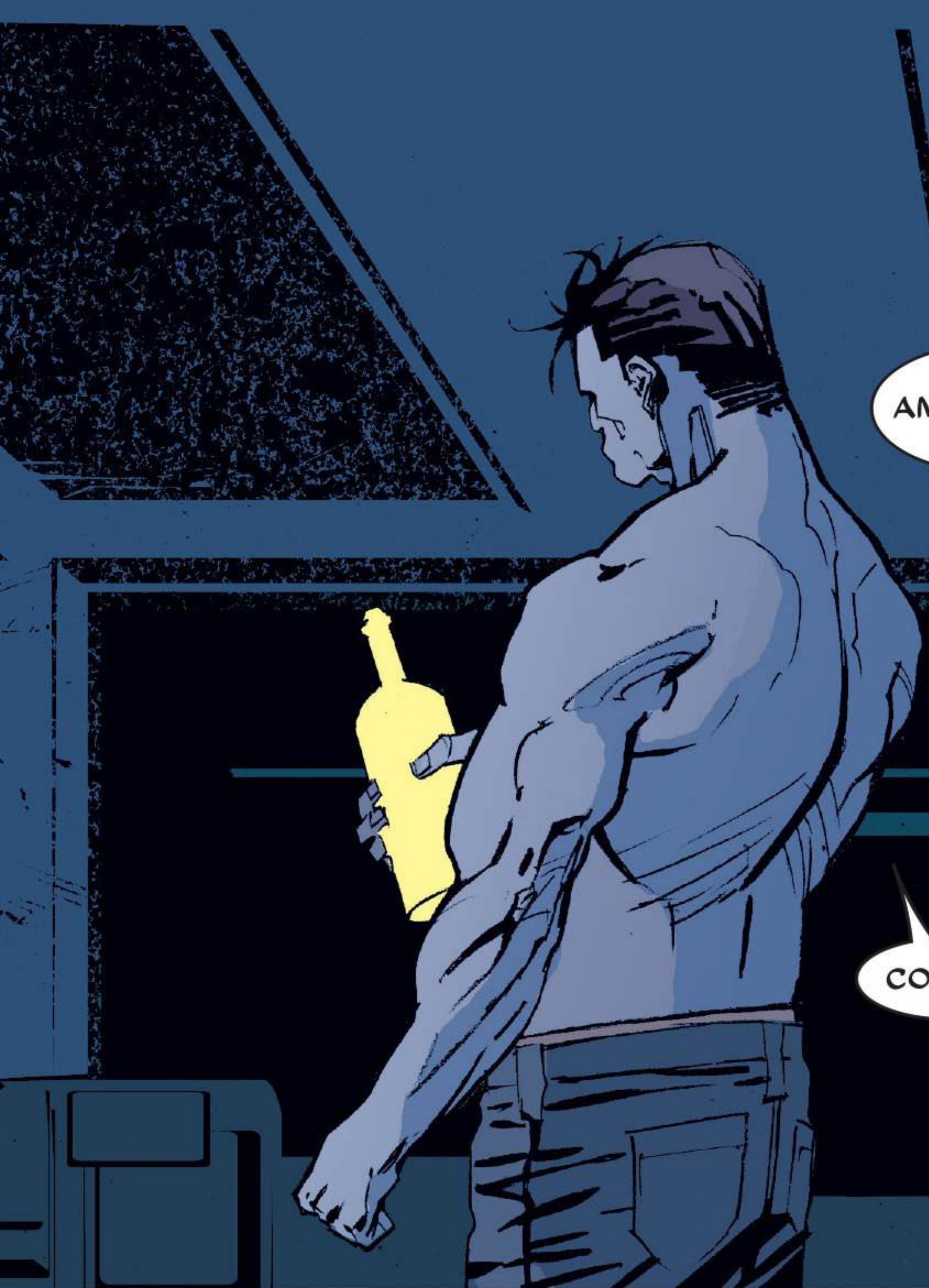


JAKE. THAT *IS* WHAT
YOU'RE CALLING
YOURSELF
THESE DAYS,
ISN'T IT?

LEAVE ME
THE #####
ALONE.



WORD OF
ADVICE: FIGHTING
MAY PAY THE BILLS...
BUT *KILLING*--
KILLING PAYS
THE SOUL.



HEY,
AMIGO--IT'S
TIME.

COMING.

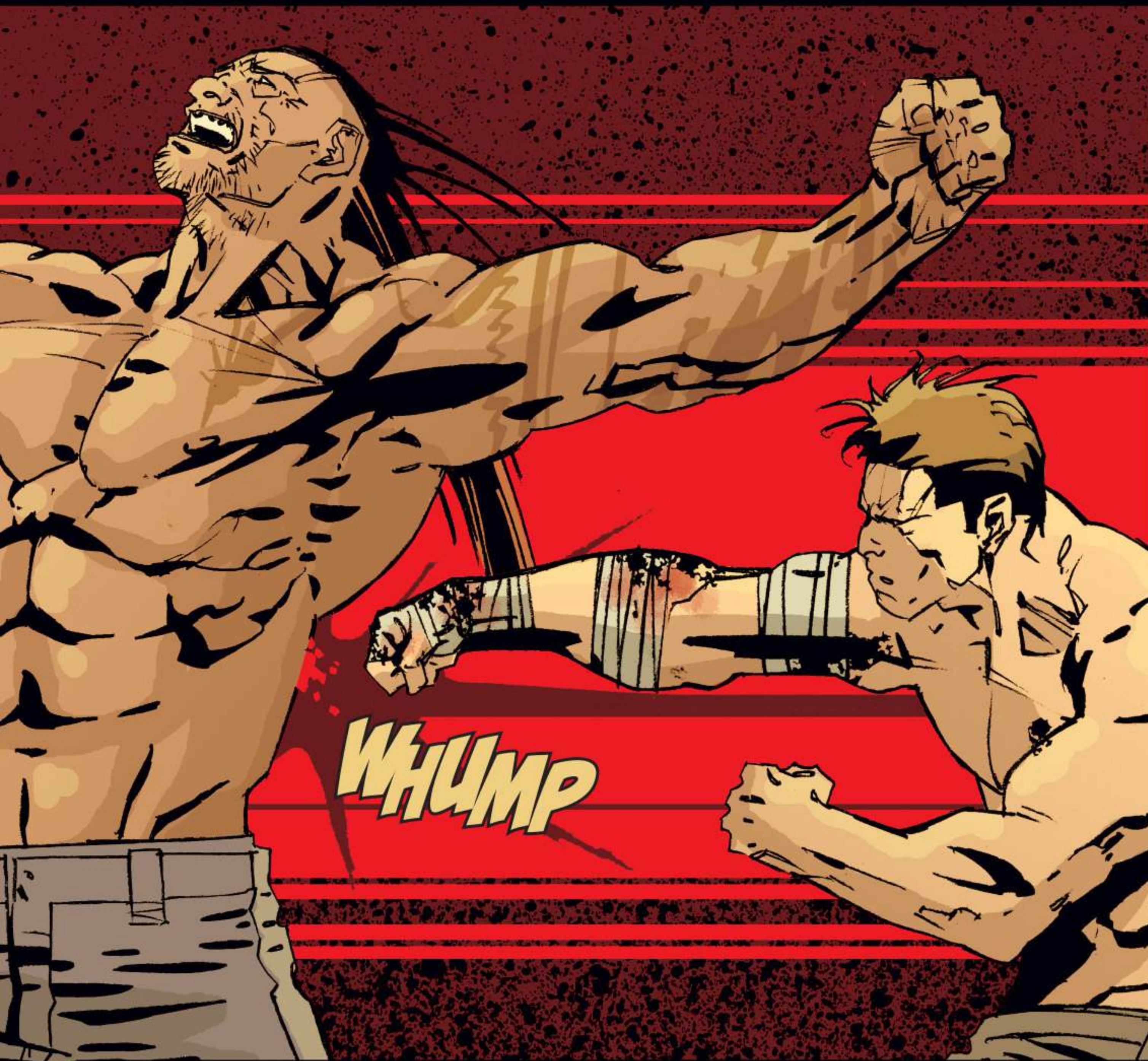


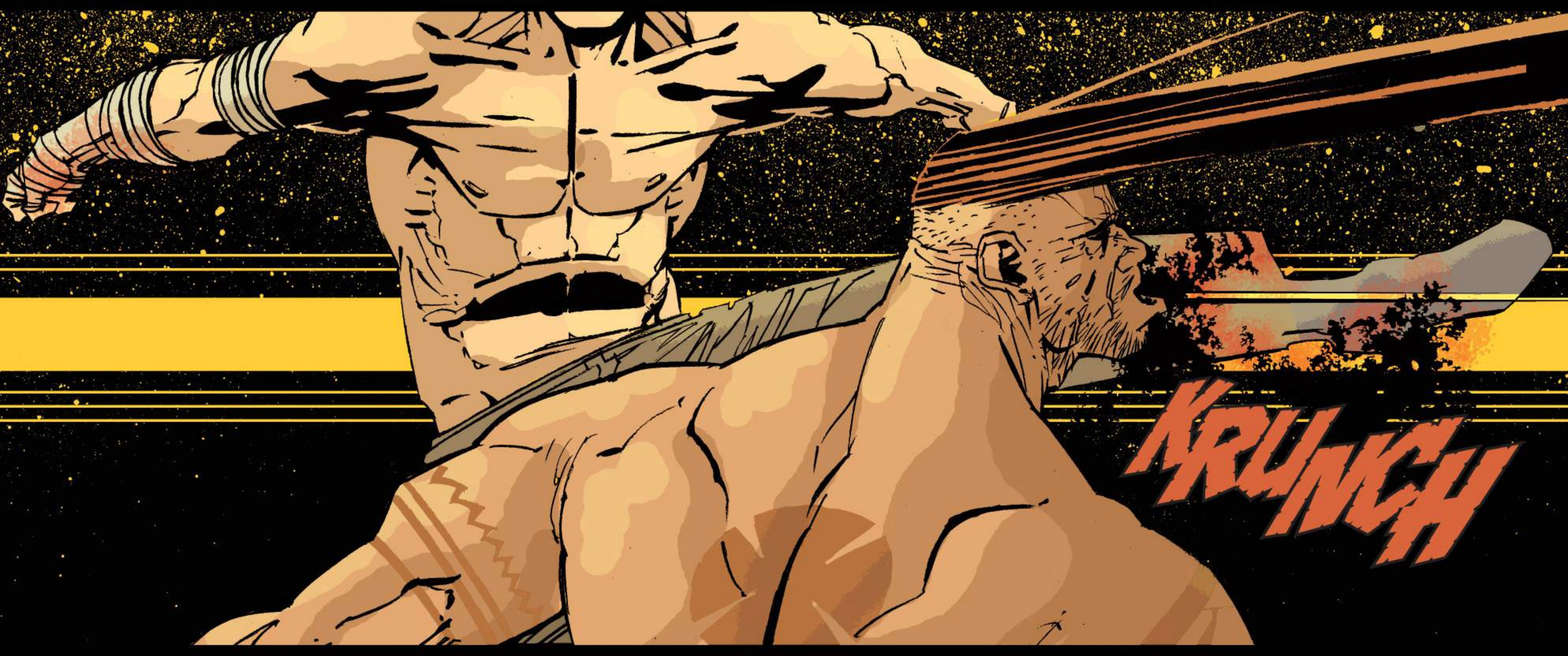
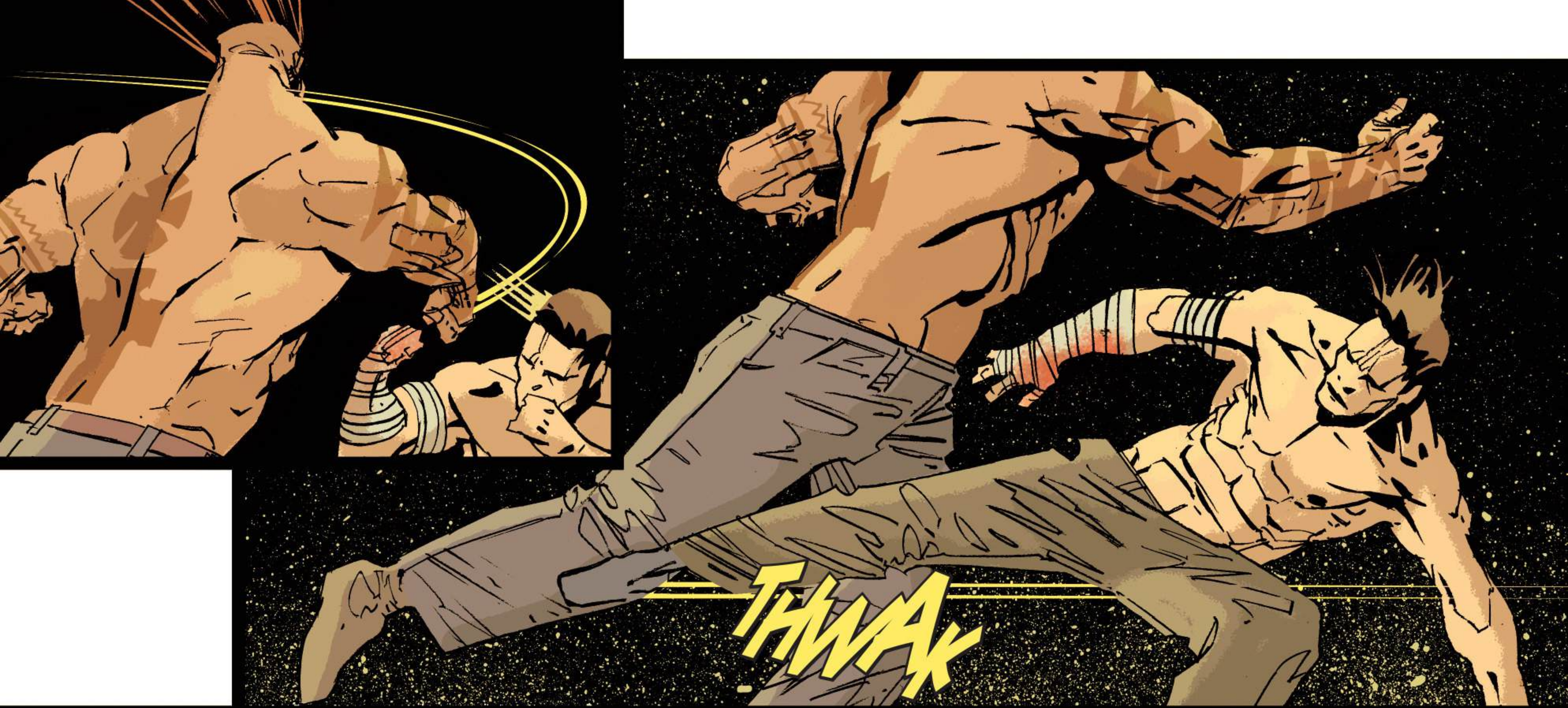
SEE
YA ON THE
OTHER
SIDE...



CRUNCH









RRRRRAAAAAAAAAHHHHH!



WHAM!



COME BACK ANY TIME.



...I'M TELLIN' YOU, AMIGO. YOU AND ME, WE COULD CLEAN UP HERE. A GRINGO WHO FIGHTS LIKE YOU. WITH MY CONNECTIONS. WE COULD MAKE SOME *REAL* MONEY--NOT LIKE THAT CHANGE YOU MADE TODAY. MAYBE I SET SOMETHING FOR NEXT WEEK, WHAT YOU THINK?

THANKS FOR THE BEER. LEMME THINK IT OVER AND GET BACK TO YA.

YEAH, BUT, WAIT, WAIT--

YOU LIKE *GIRLS*, GRINGO? 'CAUSE I KNOW WHERE THEY KEEP THE BEST ONES. AND *CLEAN*, TOO. THESE GIRLS ARE VERY, VERY CLEAN.

RIIIIGHT.



A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME--?

NOT INTERESTED.

I DIDN'T OFFER YOU ANYTHING.

YET.



I SAW YOU FIGHT ANGEL. IMPRESSIVE. WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO FIGHT LIKE THAT?

I HAD OLDER BROTHERS.



LISTEN, PAL. I AIN'T LOOKIN' FOR ANOTHER FIGHT. THIS WAS JUST TO MAKE A LITTLE SCRATCH AND FILL IN THE IN-BETWEENS. NOTHIN' MORE.

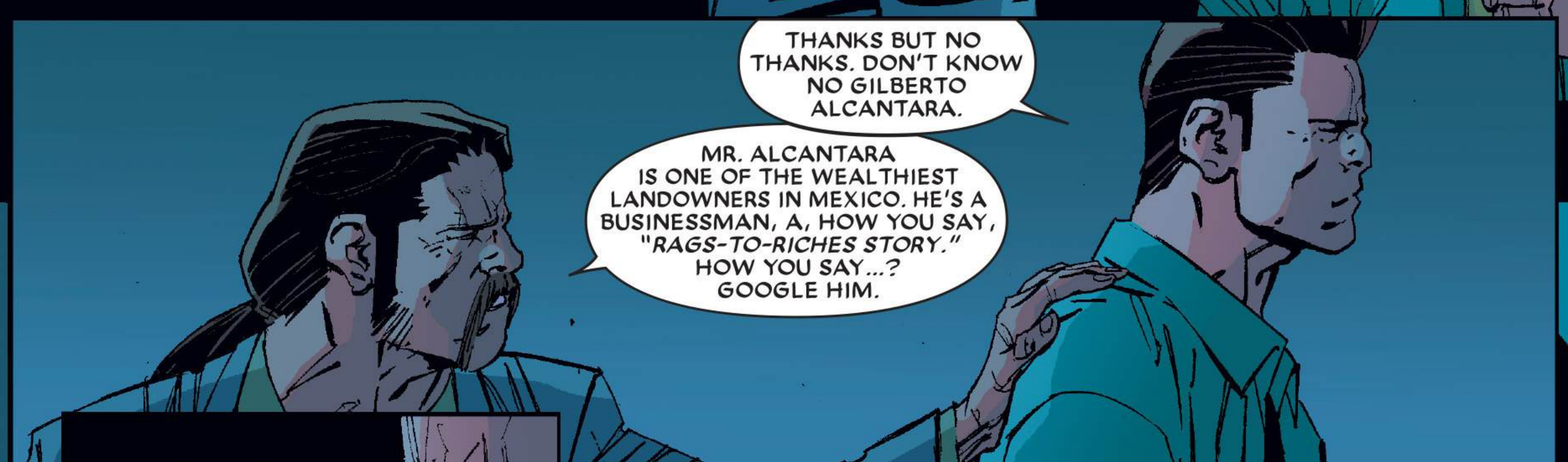


IN-BETWEENS DON'T SOUND LIKE MUCH OF A LIVIN', SENIOR LOCKELY.



HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YA?

JUST THE MESSENGER. MY EMPLOYER, GILBERTO ALCANTARA, HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT DOWN WITH YOU AND TALK.



THANKS BUT NO THANKS. DON'T KNOW NO GILBERTO ALCANTARA.

MR. ALCANTARA IS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST LANDOWNERS IN MEXICO. HE'S A BUSINESSMAN, A, HOW YOU SAY, "RAGS-TO-RICHES STORY." HOW YOU SAY...? GOOGLE HIM.



AND WHAT DOES THE LAND BARON WANT FROM ME?

MY GUESS, YOU WERE A SOLDIER. GREEN BERET? MERCENARY? WHATEVER YOU WERE, DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT **MATTERS** IS YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOURSELF.

MR. ALCANTARA IS LOOKING FOR A CAPABLE MAN. ONE WITH YOUR SKILL-SET.



THREE WEEKS AGO, MR. ALCANTARA'S ONLY DAUGHTER WAS KIDNAPPED OUT OF MEXICO CITY BY SOME FEDERALES.

FOR WHAT?

FOR WHATEVER THEY SAY. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

SHE WAS SHOPPING, WHEN SHE WAS ABDUCTED. HER THREE BODYGUARDS WERE SEVERELY BEATEN. ONE REMAINS IN A COMA. AND NOW SHE'S BEING HELD IN A SMALL JAIL SOMEWHERE IN LAMPAZOS.

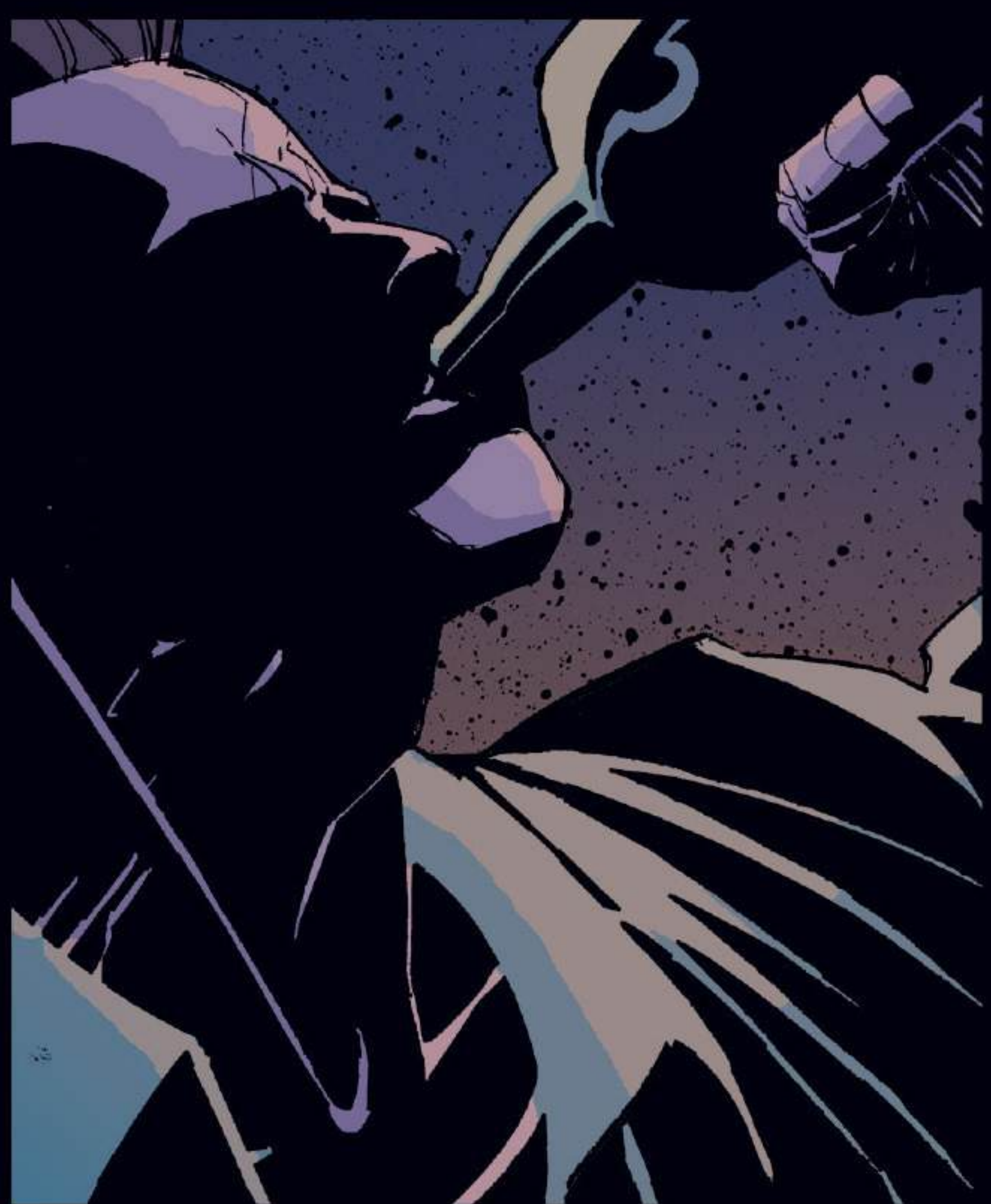


AND YOU WANT ME TO BUST HER OUT OF JAIL?

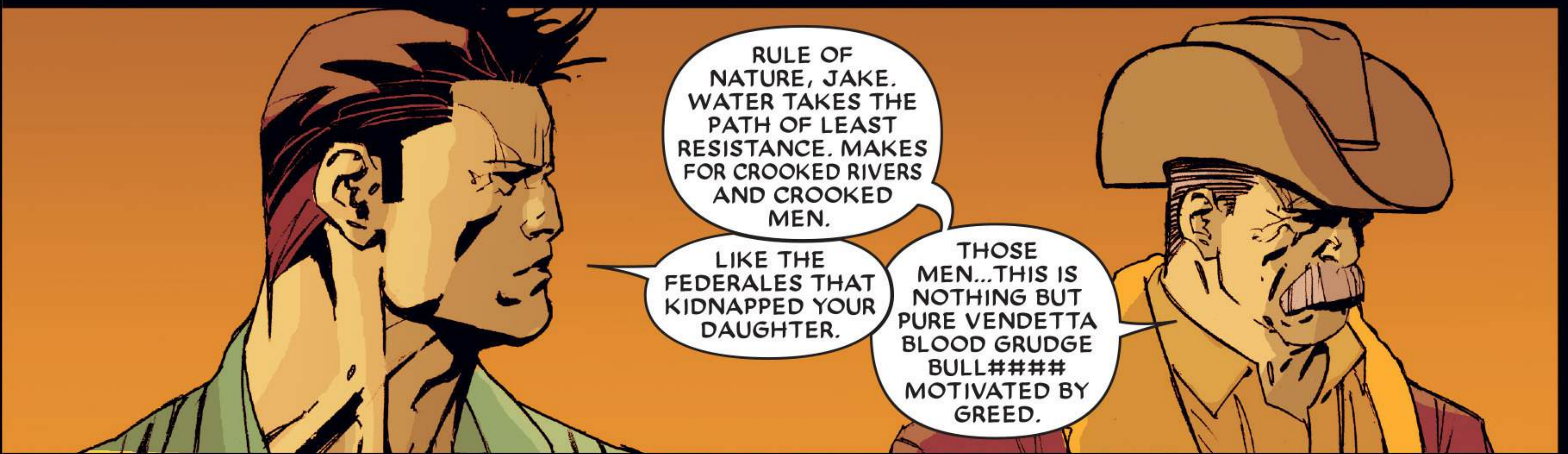


NO. I WANT YOU TO SPEAK TO A DISTRAUGHT FATHER. THAT'S ALL I WANT FOR NOW.

IT WON'T TAKE LONG. HEAR HIM OUT. IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR, YOU LEAVE. IF YOU DO, IT WILL BE WORTH YOUR WHILE, TRUST ME.



NO HARM IN TALKING.





I'M WILLING TO PAY YOU A LOT OF MONEY TO GET MY DAUGHTER OUT OF HARM'S WAY. SEVEN FIGURES. A MAN COULD START A BRAND NEW LIFE WITH THAT TYPE OF MONEY. A FRESH START.

AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY LIFE?

JUST WHAT I SEE, FRIEND. NOT TOO MANY ANGLO BARE-KNUCKLE FIGHTERS AROUND HERE. THIS ISN'T LAS VEGAS. MEN DON'T COME HERE TO FIGHT. THEY COME HERE TO *HIDE*.

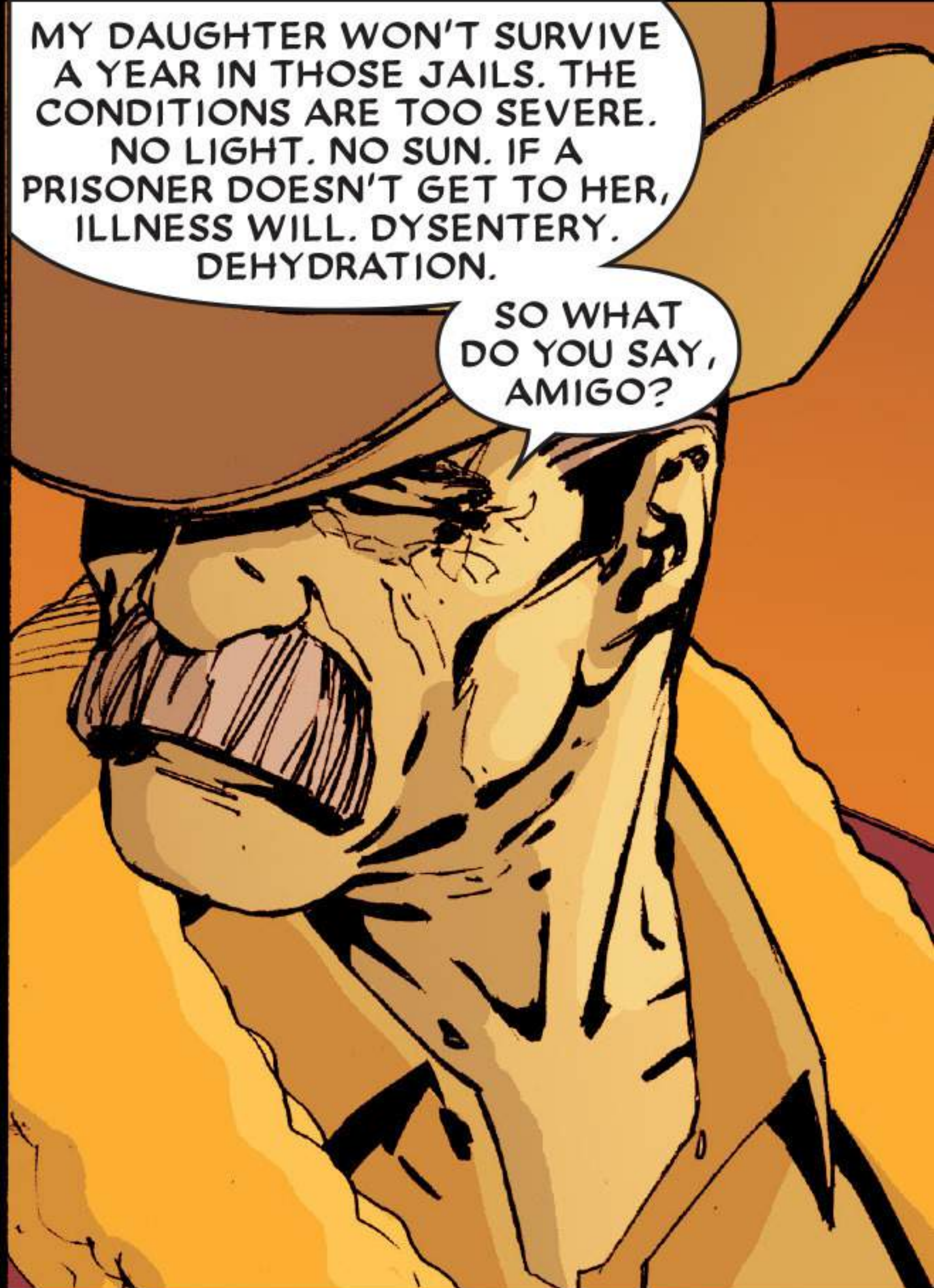
BUT THIS IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME.

A MAN OF YOUR WEALTH, STATURE--YOU MUST HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES, LOW PLACES. WHY NOT MAKE A FEW CALLS, BUY OFF A JUDGE, A POLICE CAPTAIN? YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.



MONEY CAN'T FIX EVERYTHING, JAKE. SOMETIMES THINGS ARE TOO BROKEN. SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO GO TO THE POINT OF TROUBLE.

THESE MEN, THEY WANT TO HURT ME. SO THEY GO AFTER MY *FAMILY*. MY *HEART*. IF I PLAYED BY THE BOOKS, A PRELIMINARY HEARING WOULD TAKE A YEAR.



MY DAUGHTER WON'T SURVIVE A YEAR IN THOSE JAILS. THE CONDITIONS ARE TOO SEVERE. NO LIGHT. NO SUN. IF A PRISONER DOESN'T GET TO HER, ILLNESS WILL. DYSENTERY. DEHYDRATION.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, AMIGO?







UP
AHEAD.



I DO THE
TALKING.



<HELLO
OFFICER.
WHAT'S THE
TROUBLE?>



<WHERE
YOU GOING
TONIGHT?>

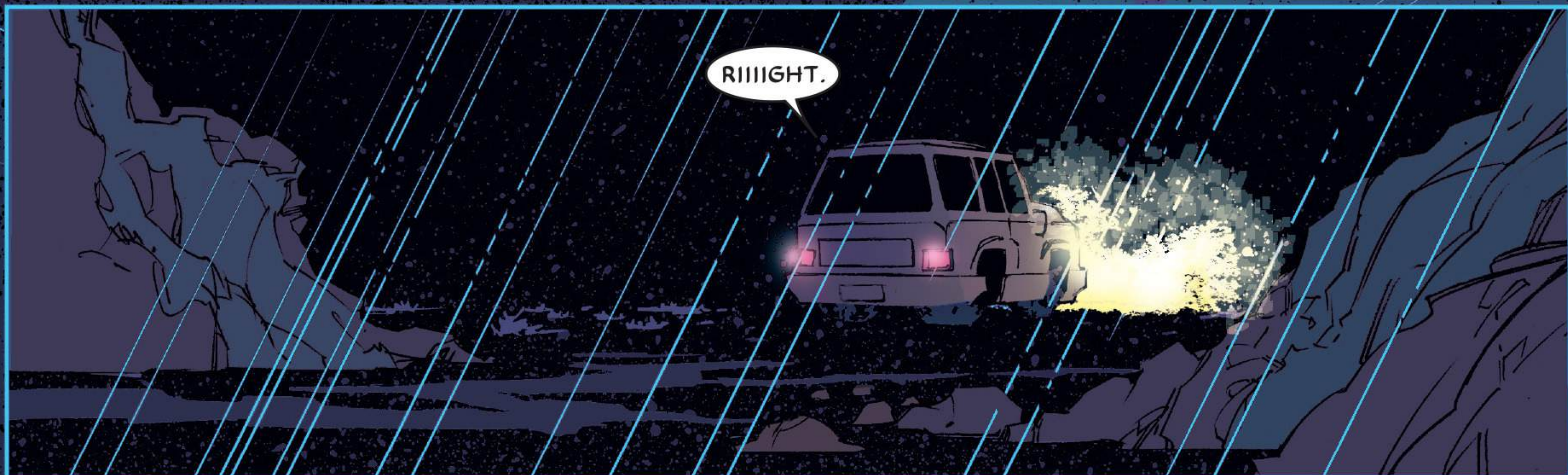
<VILLA DE
REYES. MY LITTLE
SISTER'S GETTING
MARRIED TOMORROW.
TO THIS GRINGO
HERE. GOT THE
WHOLE FAMILY
UPSET.>

<WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?
ACCIDENT?>



<FLASH
FLOODINGS.
BE CAREFUL OUT
HERE TONIGHT,
OKAY.>

<OF
COURSE,
OFFICER.
THANKS.>





I NEED TO GET *INSIDE* THAT JAIL. LOOK AROUND.

DON'T LOOK TOO HARD. MAYBE TELL THEM YOU GOT YOUR WALLET LIFTED OR SOMETHING.

I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.



WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT. SEE IF ANYONE HAS SEEN THE GIRL.

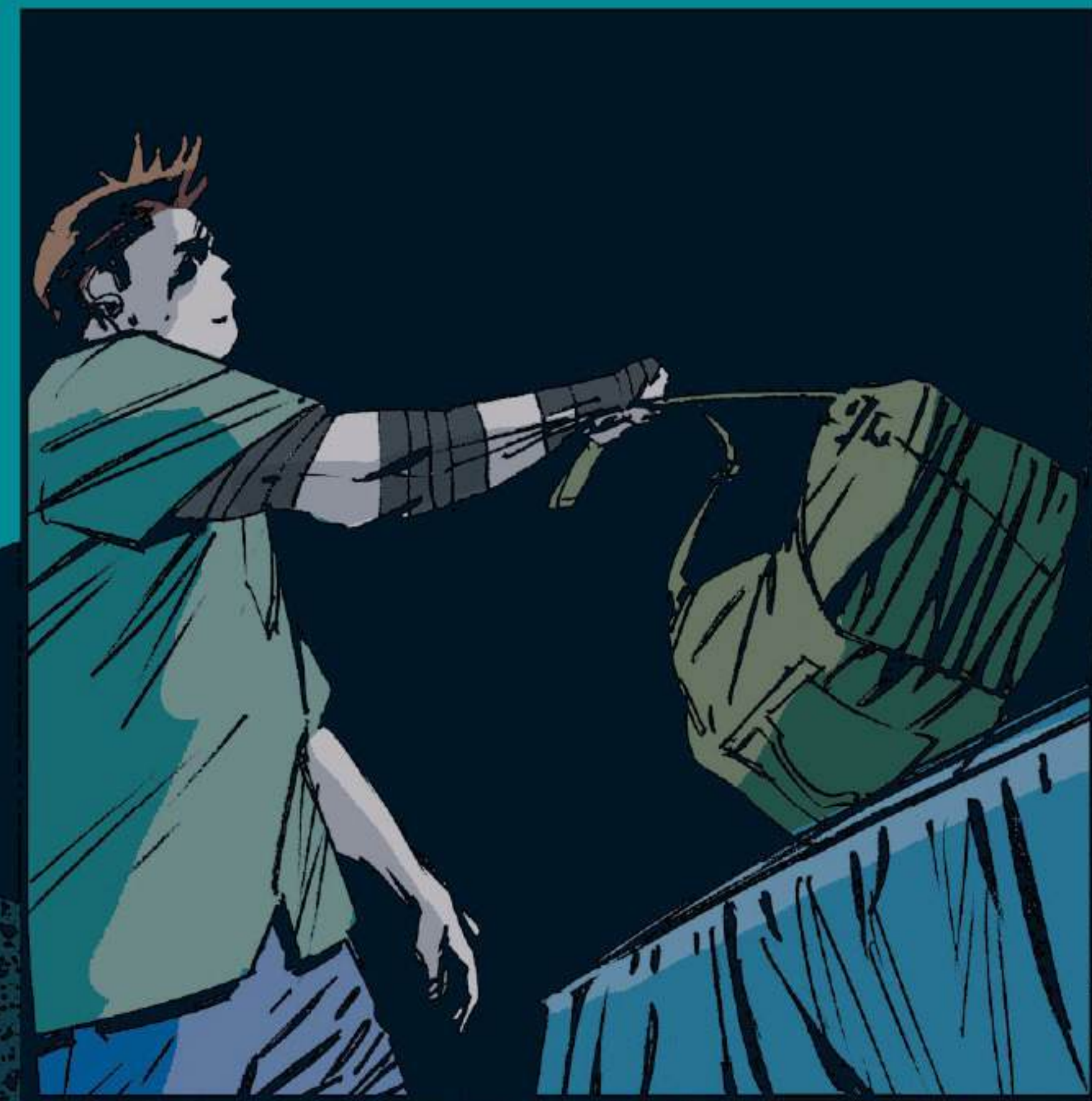
YOU WANT A PIECE?

I GOT THAT TAKEN CARE OF.

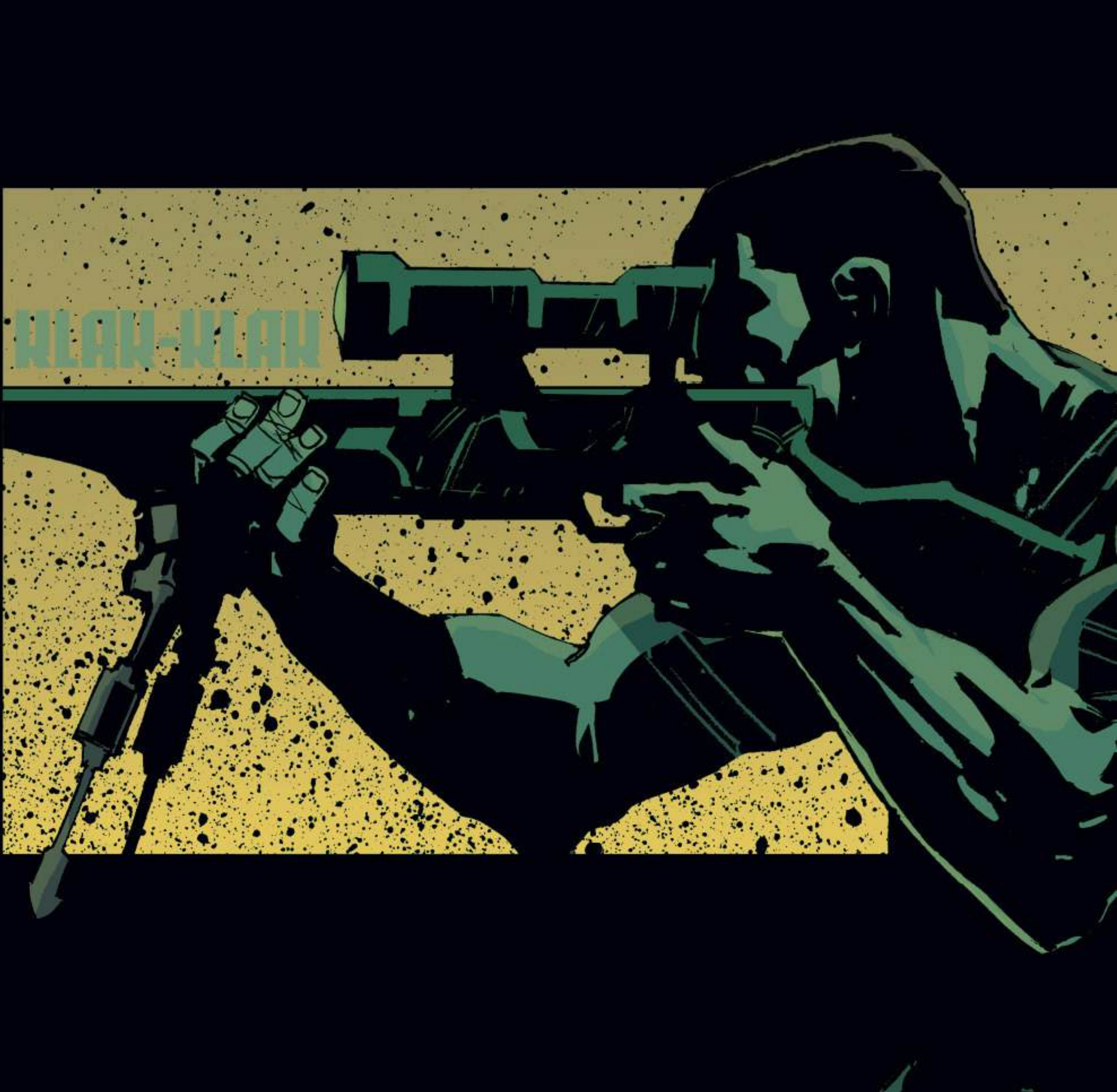
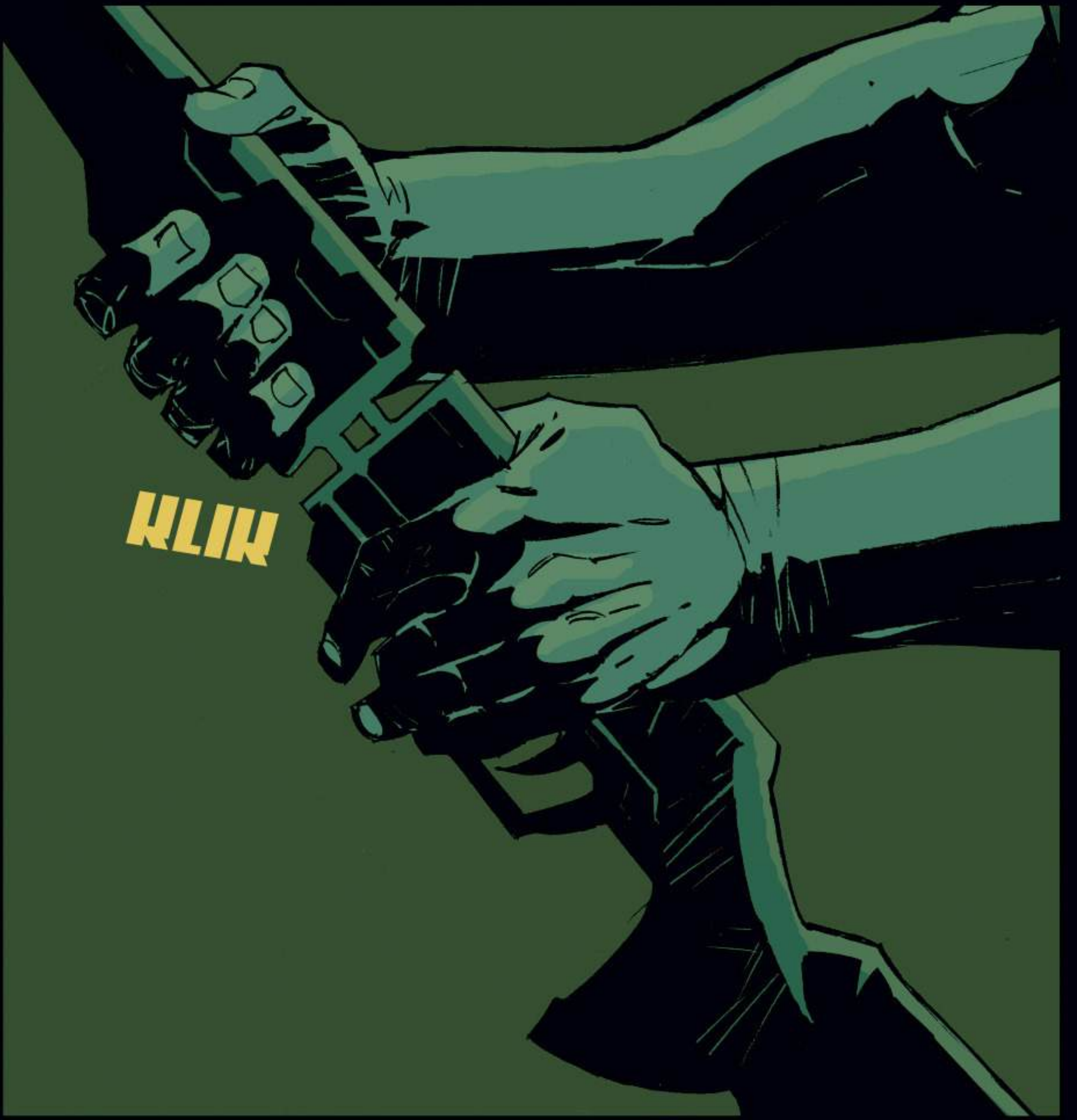


SUIT YOURSELF, FRIEND. OH, AND DON'T DRINK THE WATER.

HA HA HA!









WHAT'S DOIN'?

CRAZY #####. YOU SEE THEM ALL OVER?

SEE WHO?

RUSSIANS, BRO. BIG UGLY BULLS. THEY'VE BEEN ROLLING IN ALL WEEK LIKE SOME KIND OF PLUMBERS' CONVENTION. THE FEDERALES ARE ALL RATTLED. EVERYBODY'S BAT##### LOCO.

PEOPLE ARE SAYING THEY'RE SITTING DOWN WITH THE SINAOLA CARTEL. SOME TYPE OF JOINT VENTURE. HELL FINALLY FROZE OVER.



WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL?

SHE'S DEFINITELY HERE. THEY'RE KEEPING HER DOWNSTAIRS.

HOW MANY GUARDS?

I DON'T KNOW. THREE OR FOUR AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

IS IT THREE OR FOUR?

YOU WANTED TO KNOW IF THE GIRL WAS HERE. I FOUND THAT OUT. ANYTHING ELSE IS GOING TO COST YOU MORE.



I'M ONLY GONNA PLAY THIS GAME ONCE, PRINCESA.



NOW YOU'RE ON **RETAINER**. YOU'RE **MINE**. GET ME SOME #####ING ANSWERS.





YOU WERE
RIGHT, THEY'RE
KEEPING HER IN A
BASEMENT CELL.
I'LL HAVE MORE
INFORMATION
LATER.



CAN I GET
YOU ANOTHER
DRINK,
FRIEND?

NO
THANKS.

WHAT?
YOU DON'T
LIKE THE
TEQUILA?



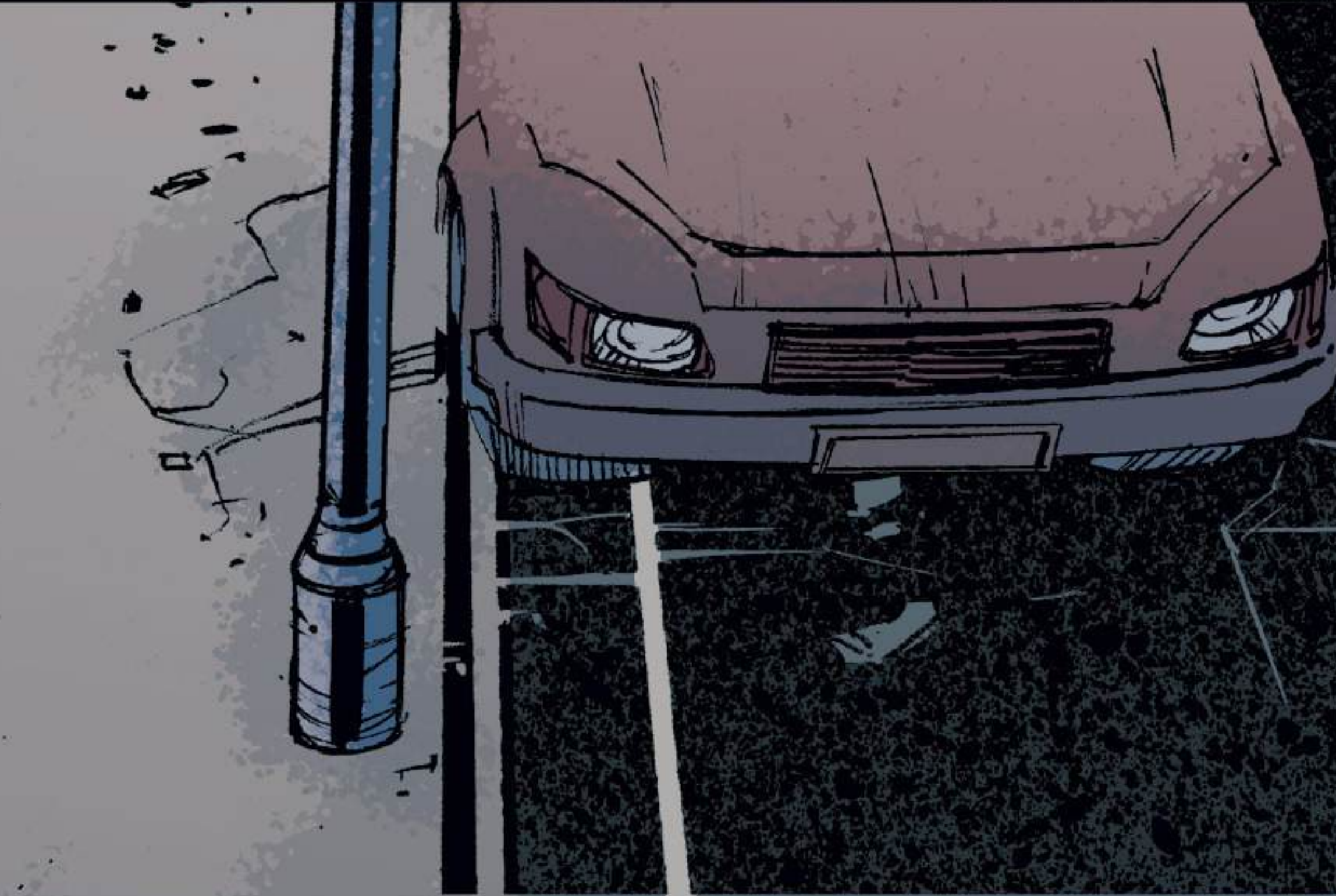
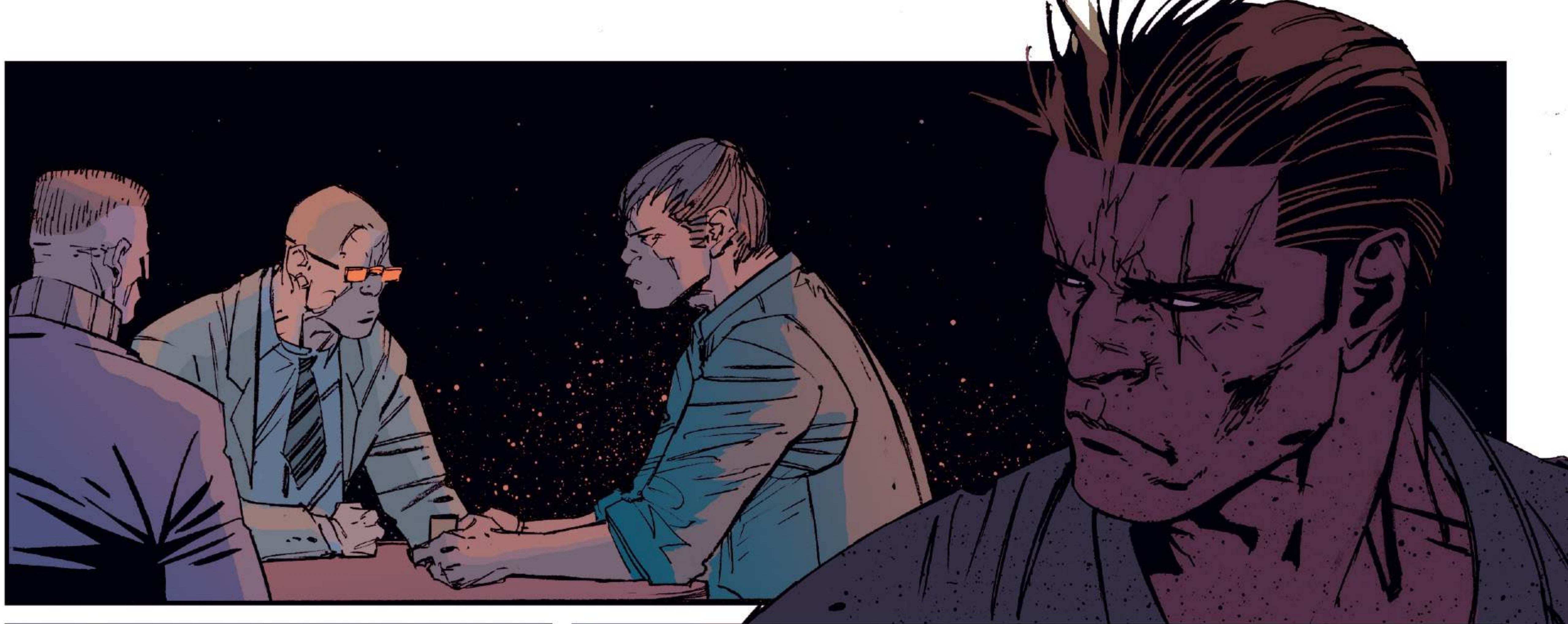
TEQUILA'S
FINE. I'M JUST
PARTICULAR
WHO I DRINK
WITH.

I'LL
SEE YA
LATER.



I DON'T
THINK HE
LIKES US.

GOOD.
THEN WE'RE
EVEN.





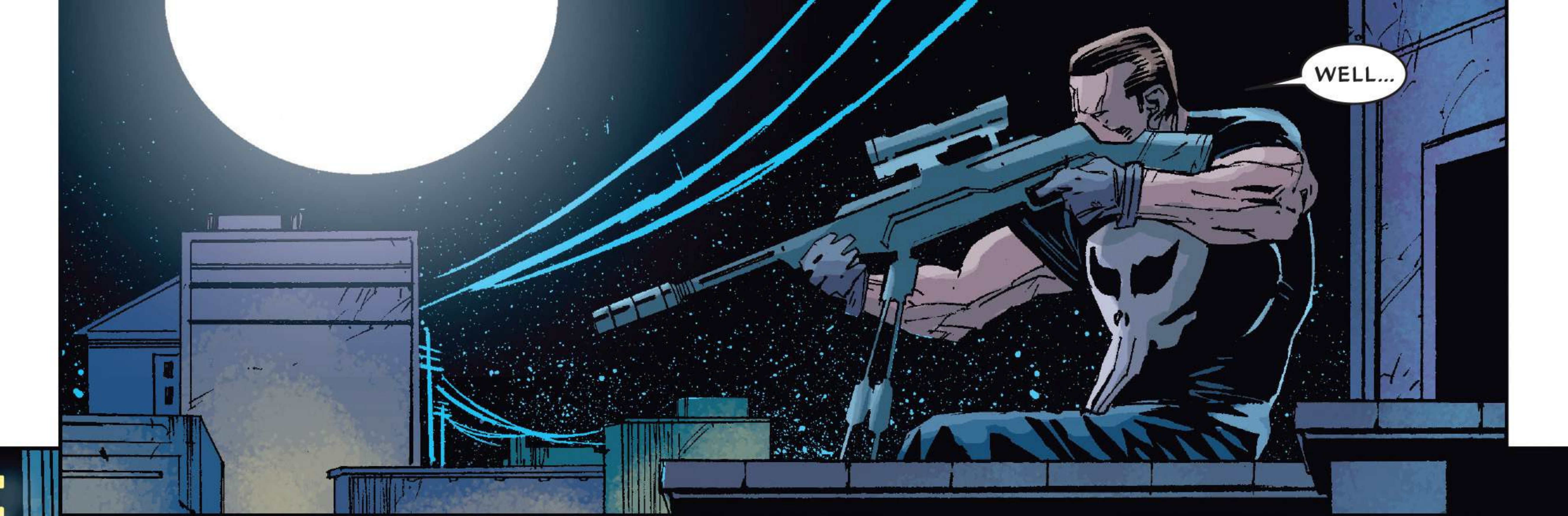
To Be Continued...

MARVEL
27 .com

BENSON
PALO
LOUGHRIDGE

MOON KNIGHT

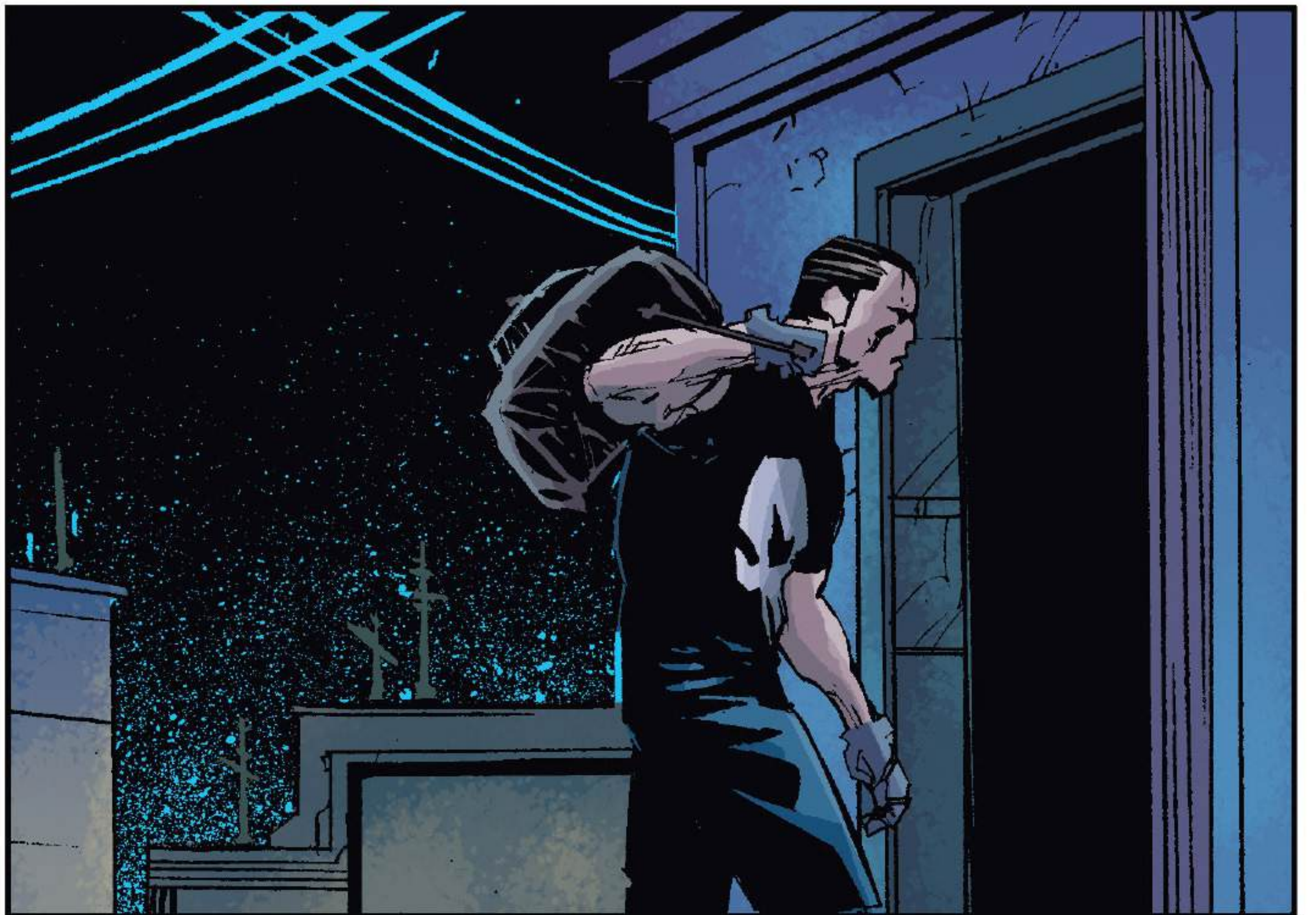
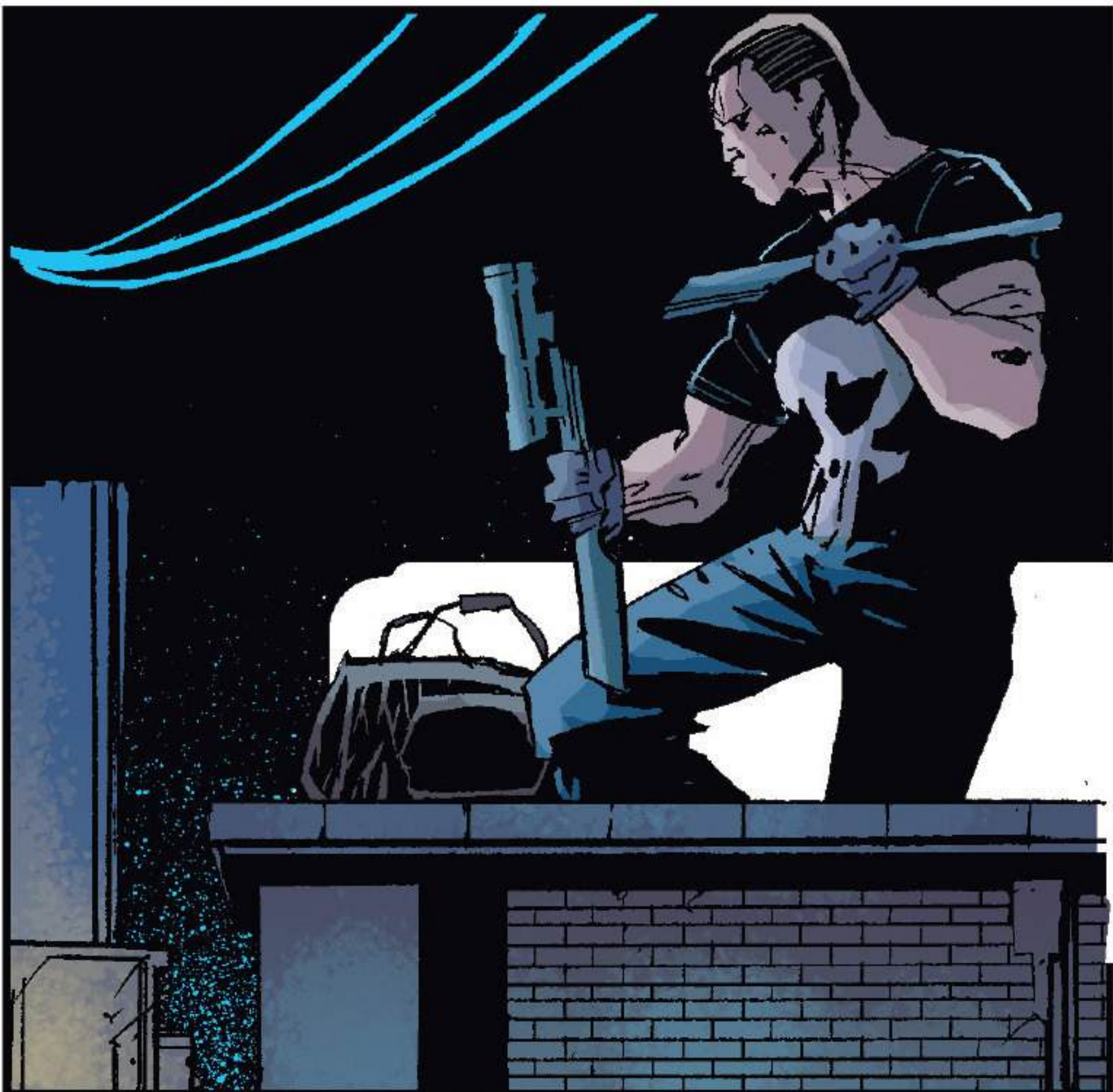




WELL...

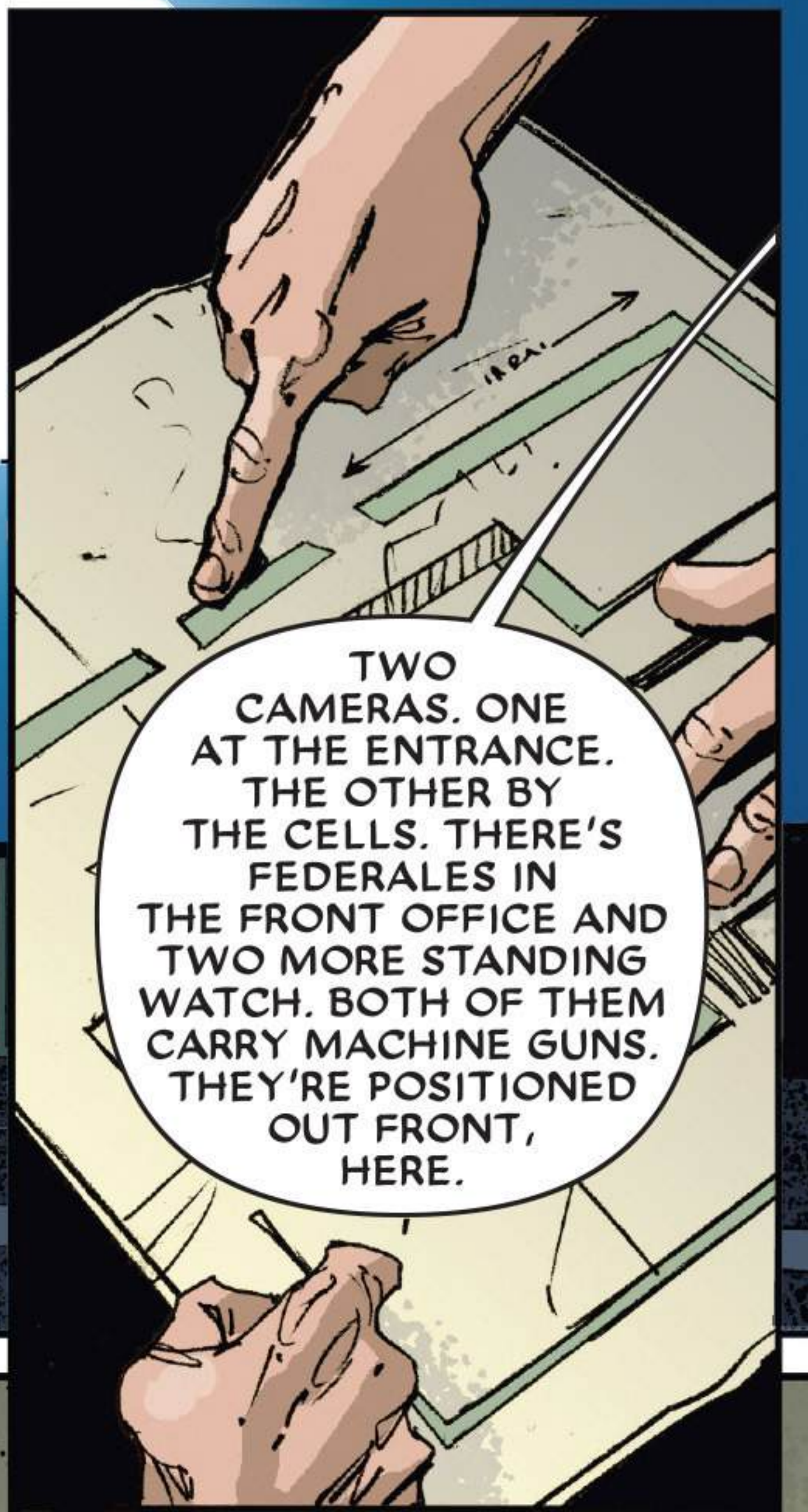


...LOOK WHO'S NOT DEAD.





VIDEO
CAMERA
ACTIVATES ON
ALARM.



TWO
CAMERAS. ONE
AT THE ENTRANCE.
THE OTHER BY
THE CELLS. THERE'S
FEDERALES IN
THE FRONT OFFICE AND
TWO MORE STANDING
WATCH. BOTH OF THEM
CARRY MACHINE GUNS.
THEY'RE POSITIONED
OUT FRONT,
HERE.



YOU'RE
SURE THE
INTEL IS
GOOD?

SURE AS
RAIN.



AIN'T
NO BIG
THING.
WE GO
IN HARD AND
FAST, ROUGH
AND TOUGH--

KLAK



NO ONE
DIES.

'SCUSE
ME?



YOU JUST
DO YOUR JOB,
CREATE A DISTRACTION--
I'LL TAKE CARE OF
THE REST.



I LOVE THIS
GUY! MACHO GRINGO
GONNA TAKE OUT ALL
THE BIG BAD MEXICANS.
YOU MUST TAKE YOUR
VITAMINS.



YOU,
WALRUS.

YOU
WANNA GO,
HOMBRE?



EASY,
BRO. I'VE
SEEN OUR
FRIEND IN
ACTION.



ONE
FEDERALE DIES
AND EVERYTHING
CHANGES. WE DO THIS
RIGHT OR NOT AT
ALL.



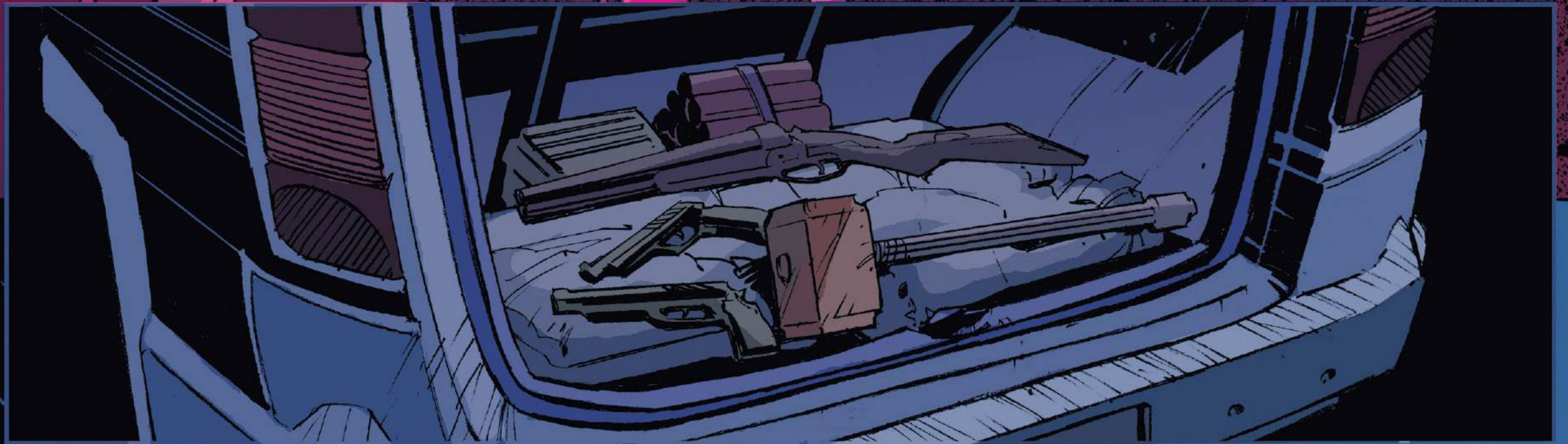
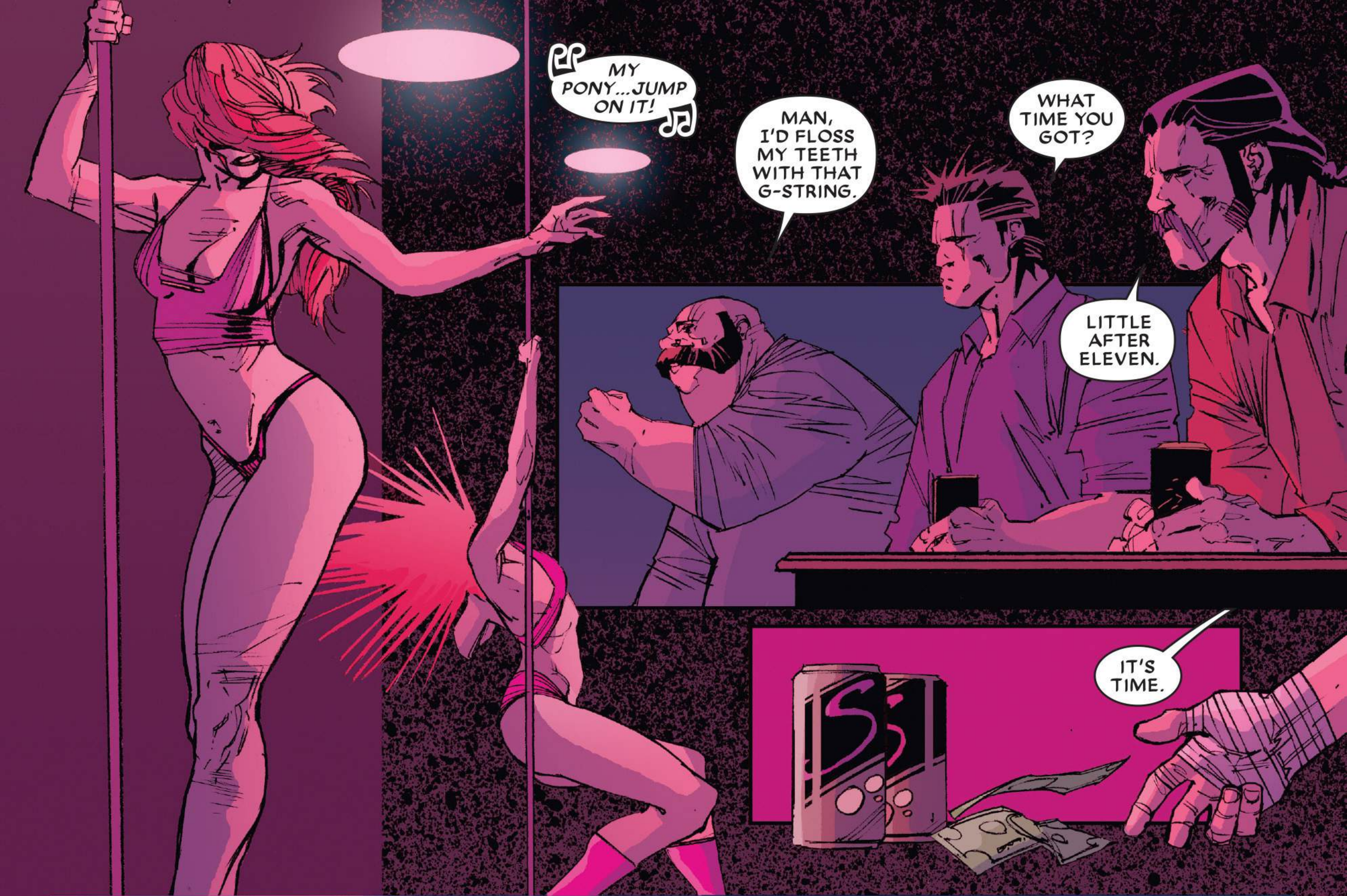
<NO
ONE HAS TO
DIE.>

<RIGHT.>

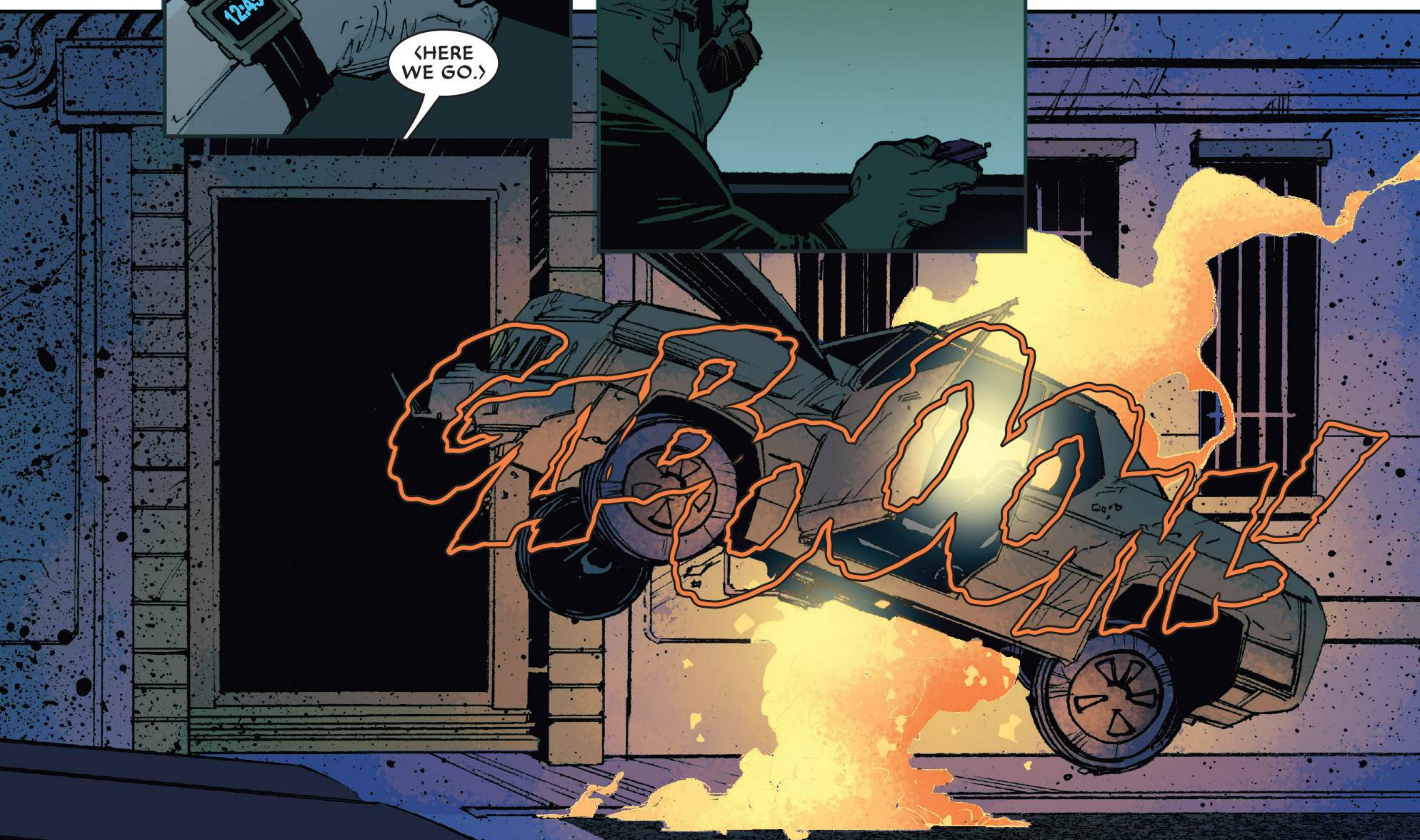
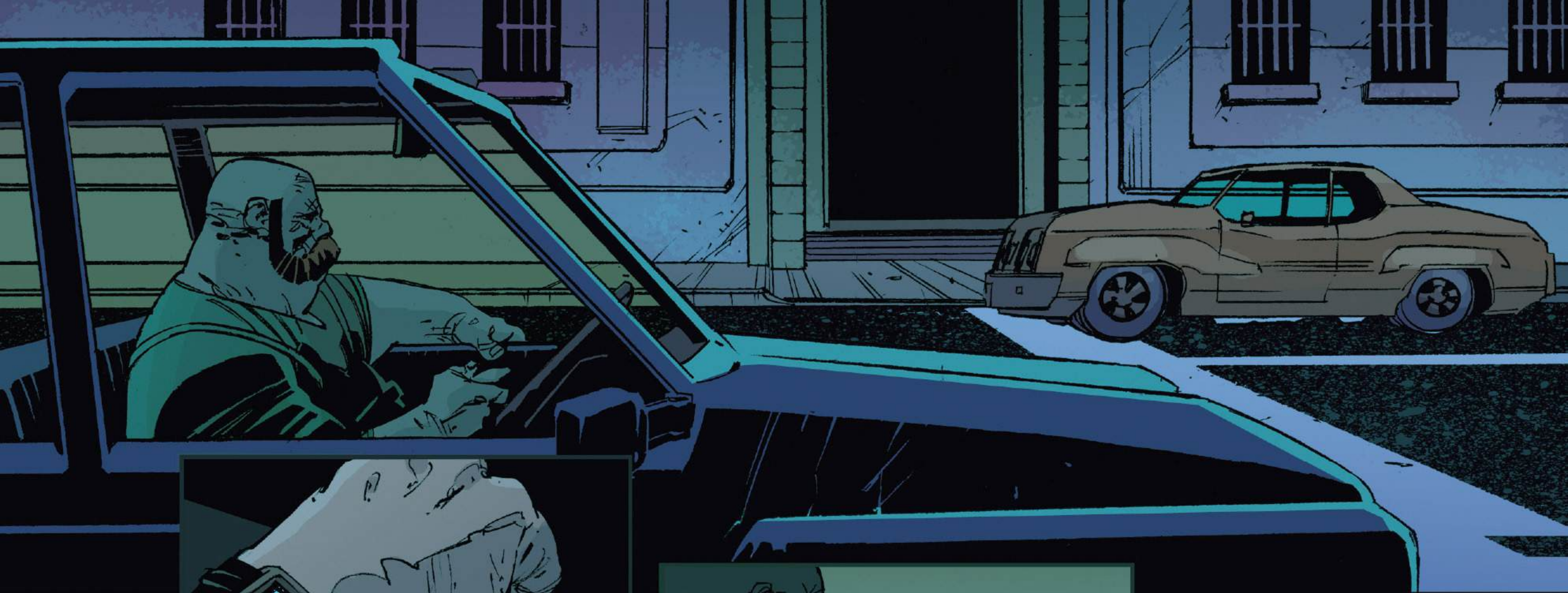


WE GOT
EVERYTHING
WE NEED?

SI. PLASTIC
EXPLOSIVES. SLEDGE-
HAMMERS. MASKS.
GUNS. ONE-STOP
SHOPPING.

















GOT'ER.
LET'S
ROLL.

ROLLING.



GOOD
WORK...YOUR
FACE?

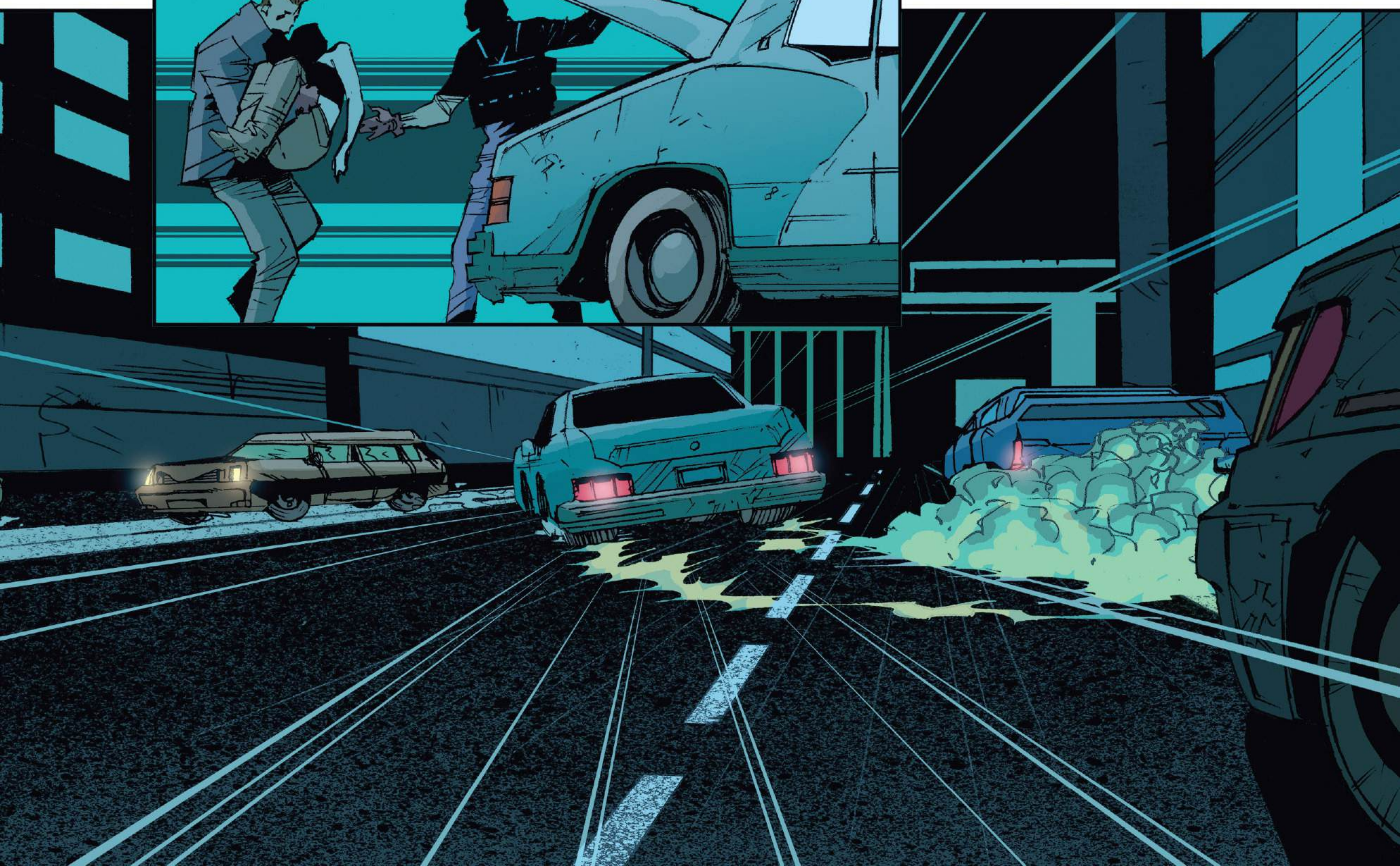
A
SCRATCH.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER?

SHE'S
FINE.



HIT THE
SIDEWALK, TURN
RIGHT. ACROSS
THE STREET'S A
BLUE MONTE
CARLO.





YOU'RE GONNA
TELL ME WHAT'S
GOING ON NOW 'CAUSE
I'M DONE PLAYING GAMES.
YOU DIDN'T SEE THE
LOOK ON HER FACE WHEN
I MENTIONED HER
FATHER.



I ASSURE
YOU, MR.
LOCKLEY...



KLIK

...THE
GAME IS
OVER.



WALK.
MOVE.



I DON'T
HEAR YOUR
SMART TONGUE
NOW. GET ON
YOUR KNEES,
TOUGH G--



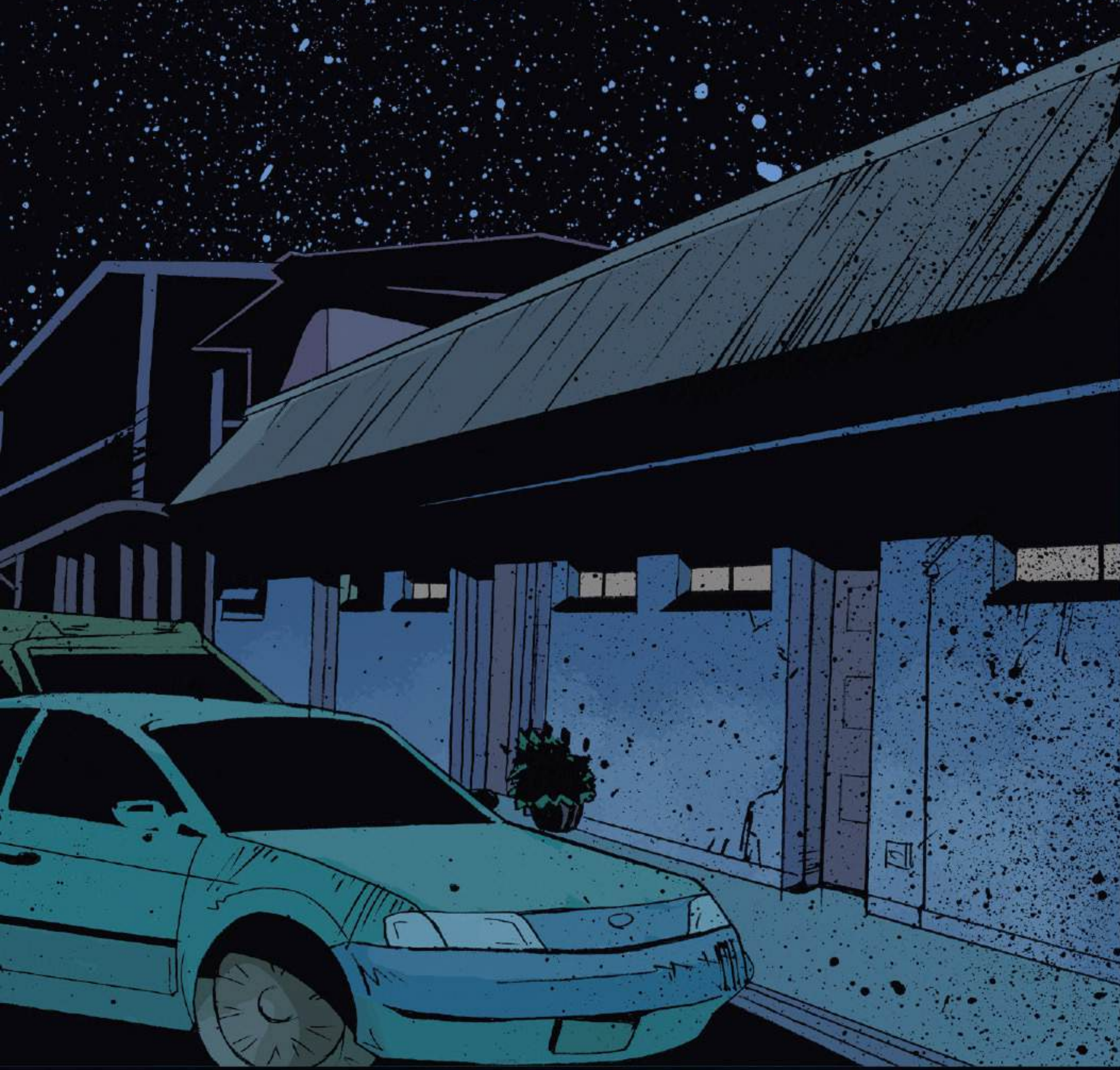
WHUMP



POP POP POP
POP





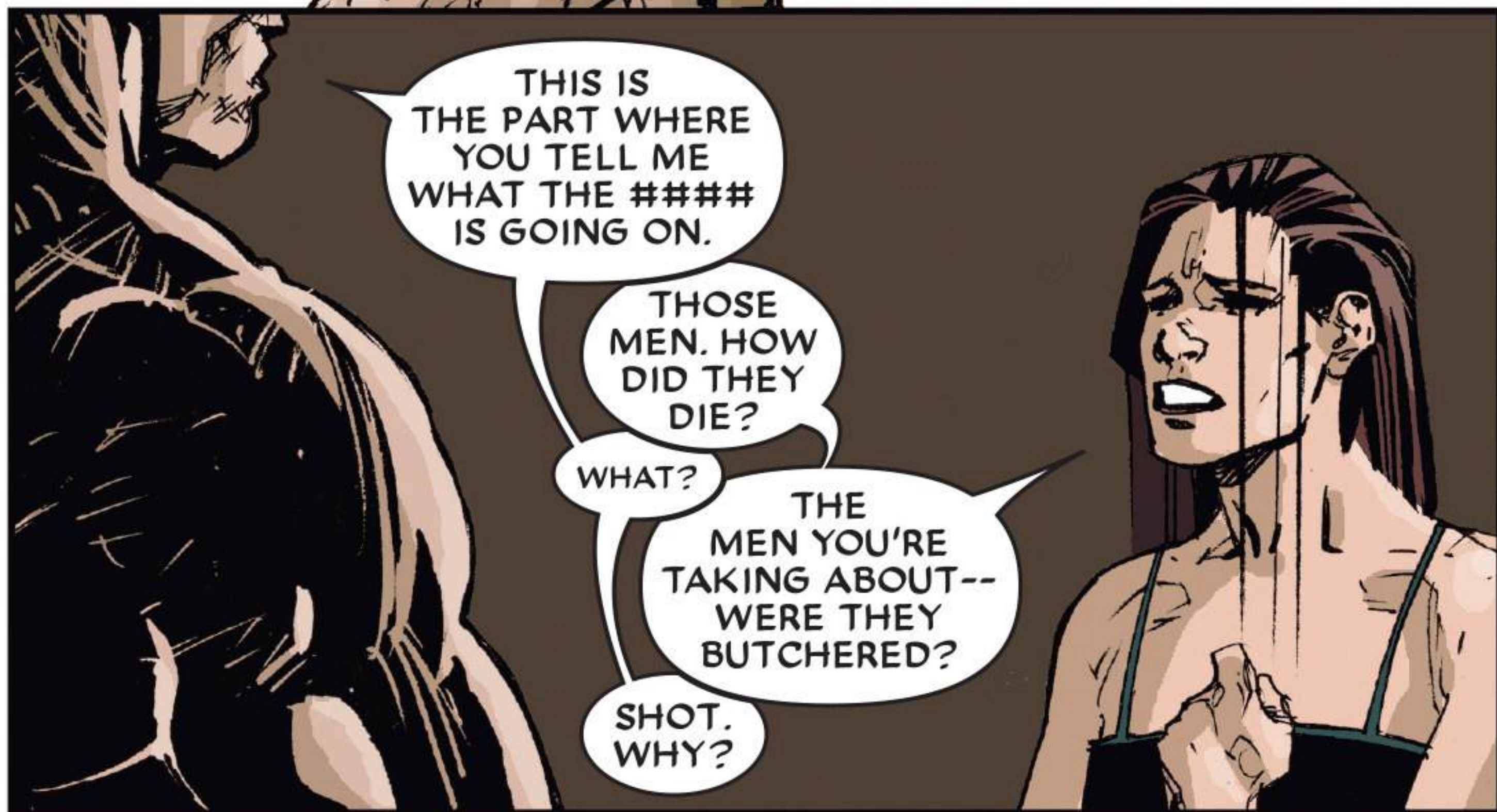




MY NAME IS JAKE. RECENTLY I MET A MAN CALLIN' HIMSELF GILBERTO ALCANTARA. CLAIMED HIS DAUGHTER'D BEEN KIDNAPPED BY SOME DIRTY FEDERALES. HE HIRED ME TO GET HER-- YOU--BACK.

ONLY THE MEN HE SENT ME DOWN HERE WITH WERE TAKEN OUT.

AND NOT BY ME.



THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU TELL ME WHAT THE #### IS GOING ON.

THOSE MEN. HOW DID THEY DIE?

WHAT?

THE MEN YOU'RE TAKING ABOUT-- WERE THEY BUTCHERED?

SHOT. WHY?

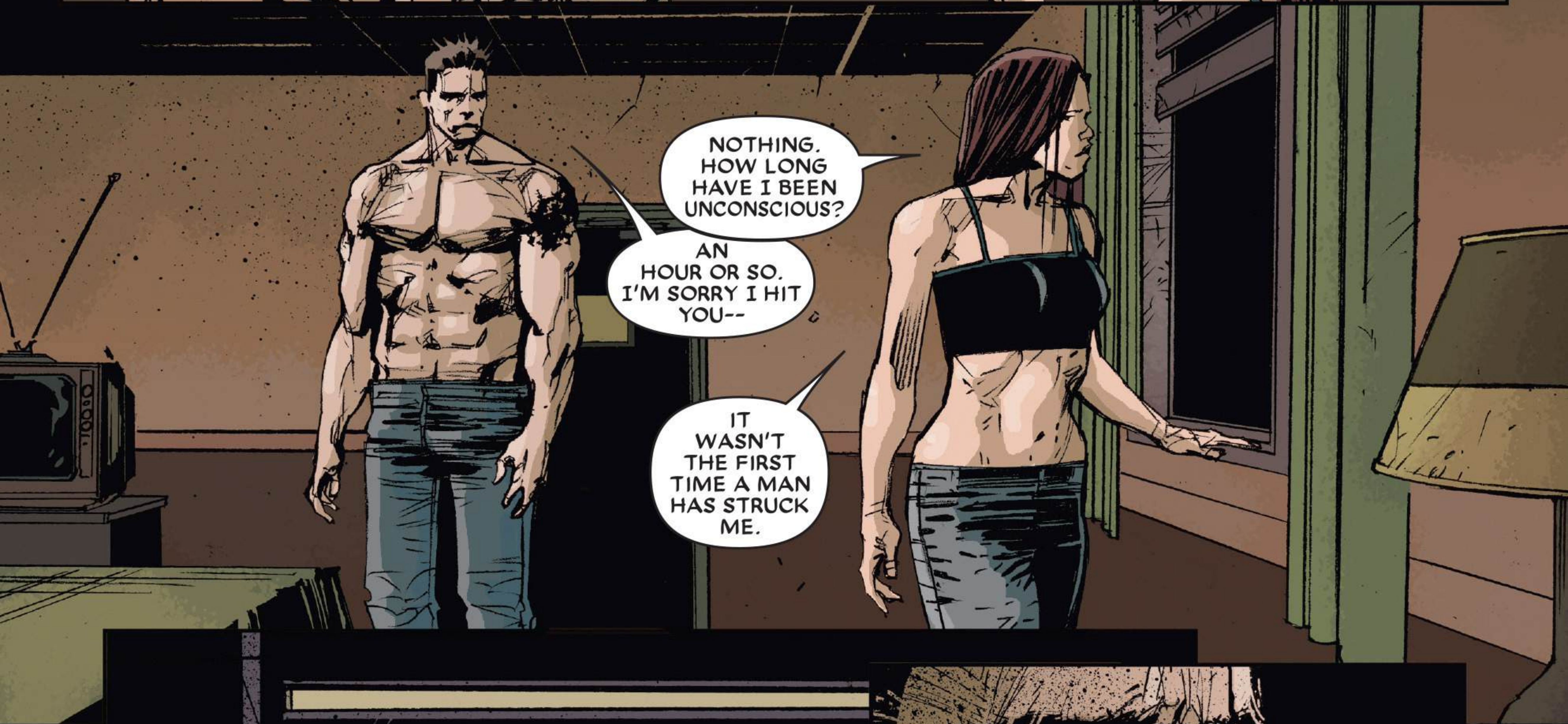


NOTHING.



YOUR ARM.

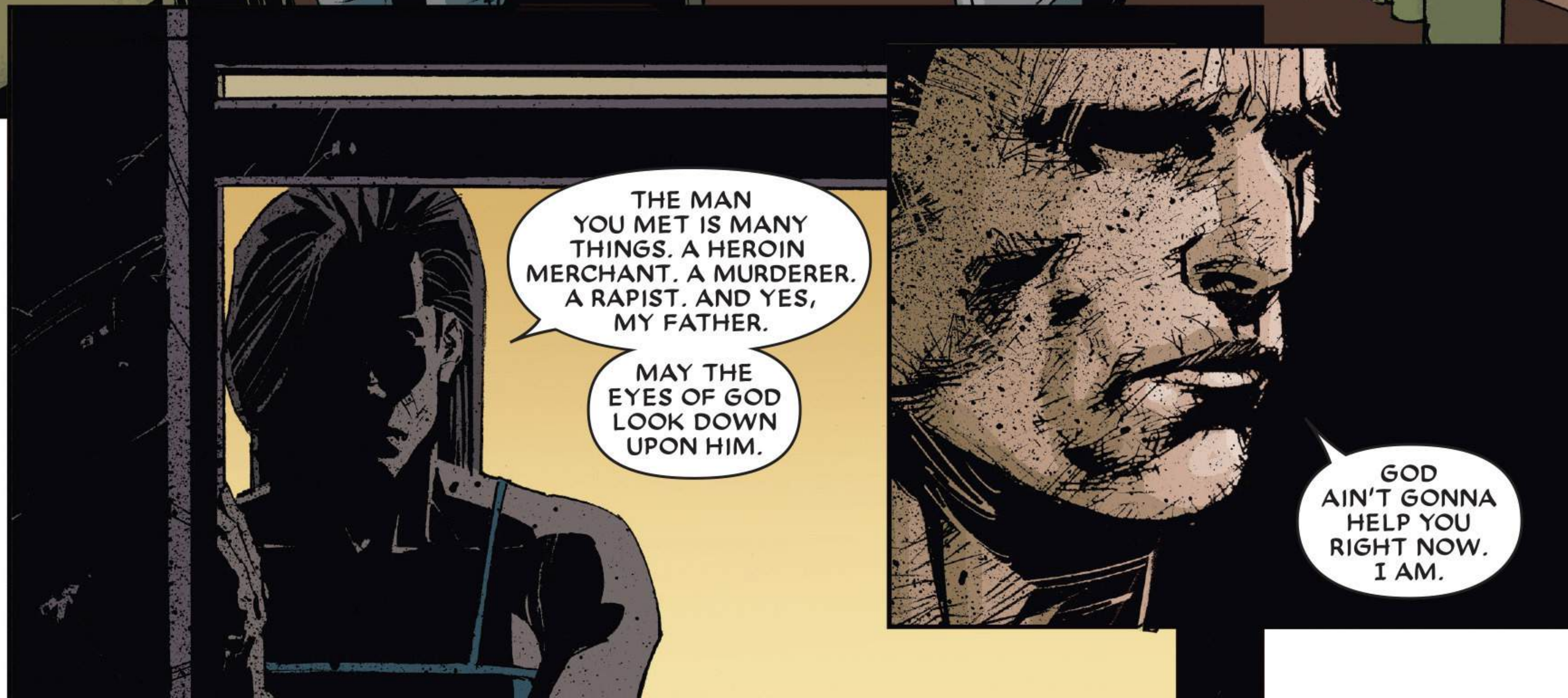
IT'LL HEAL. WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?



NOTHING. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN UNCONSCIOUS?

AN HOUR OR SO. I'M SORRY I HIT YOU--

IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME A MAN HAS STRUCK ME.



THE MAN YOU MET IS MANY THINGS. A HEROIN MERCHANT. A MURDERER. A RAPIST. AND YES, MY FATHER.

MAY THE EYES OF GOD LOOK DOWN UPON HIM.



GOD AIN'T GONNA HELP YOU RIGHT NOW. I AM.

MONTHS AGO
I WAS APPROACHED
BY AN AGENT OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT. HE WORKED
FOR THE DEA. SAID HE WAS
BUILDING A CASE AGAINST
THE CULIACAN
CARTEL.

MY FATHER
IS BROKERING AN
ALLIANCE BETWEEN HIS
PEOPLE AND A POWERFUL
RUSSIAN FAMILY. HE REFERS
TO IT AS "*THE MERGER*," LIKE
A COUPLE OF LEGITIMATE
COMPANIES COMING
TOGETHER.

THE POLICE
SAID IF I COOPERATED,
THEY'D HELP GET ME OUT
OF MEXICO. I COULD START
ALL OVER AGAIN. I'D
BE AN AMERICAN
CITIZEN.

ONLY WHAT
WAS SUPPOSED
TO TAKE WEEKS TURNED
INTO *MONTHS*. MY FATHER HAD
LEARNED WHAT I WAS UP TO,
AND ORDERED A HIT ON ME.
SO THEY BROUGHT ME HERE,
TO THIS TOWN, WHERE
I'D BE SAFE.

AS IF
THERE IS
SUCH A THING
IN MEXICO.

MY FATHER
DECIDED TO, HOW
YOU SAY, "*KILL TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE STONE*." THE RUSSIANS
WERE COMING TO MEXICO SO HE
ARRANGED FOR THEIR BIG MEETING
TO BE HERE. HE WOULD EXECUTE
ME IN FRONT OF HIS NEW
FRIENDS--TO SHOW THEM
WHAT TYPE OF
MAN HE IS.

A
MONSTER.

SOMETHING
YOU SAID BEFORE.
YOU ASKED IF THE
MEN WHO WERE
KILLED WERE
BUTCHERED.

SOMEONE'S
BEEN KILLING MY
FATHER'S PEOPLE. AT
FIRST, THEY THOUGHT
IT WAS A RIVAL
CARTEL, BUT
IT ISN'T.

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

BECAUSE
THIS ONE--
HE DOES NOT
USE A GUN.

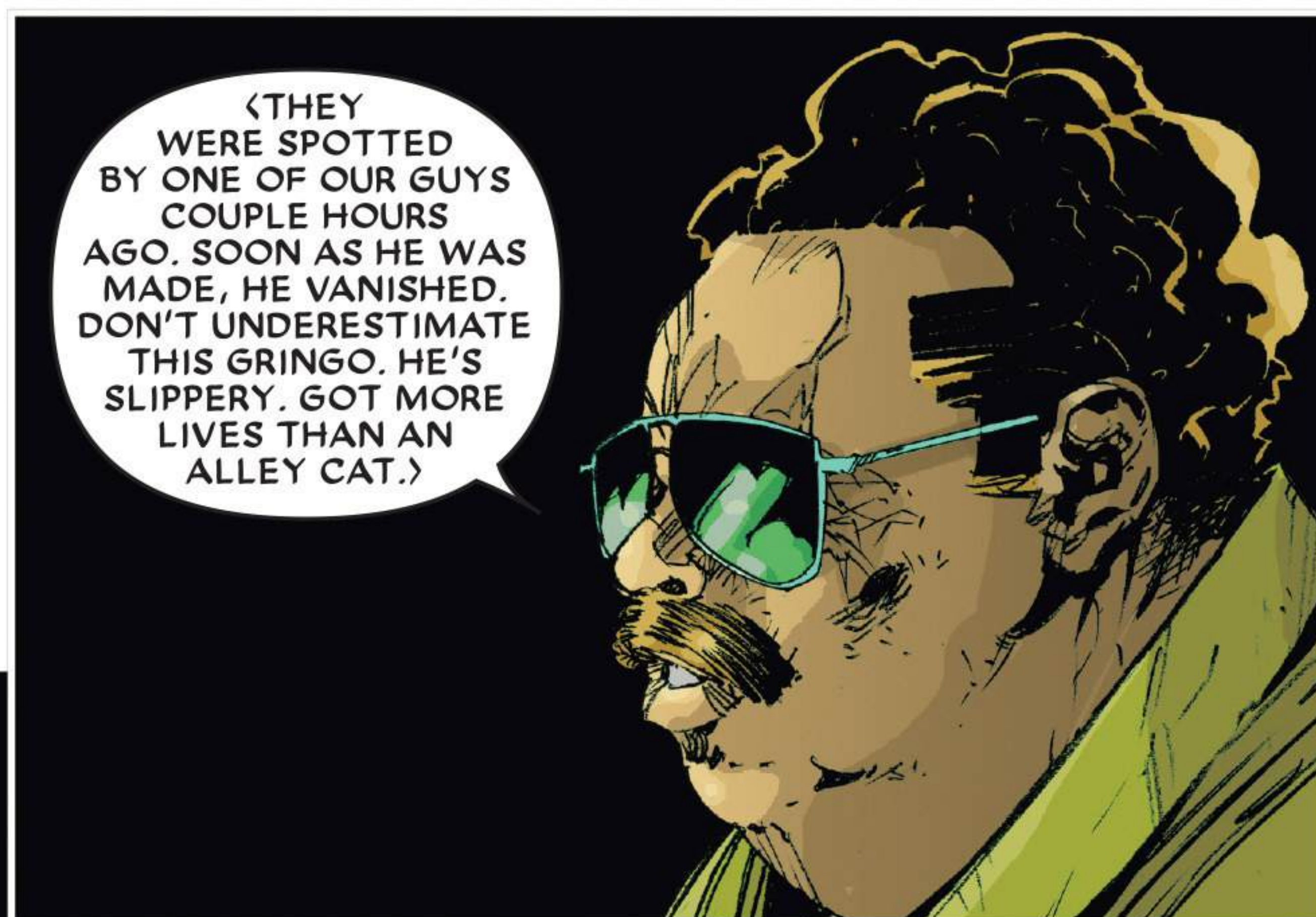


⟨WHEN DO WE SEE THE REST?⟩

⟨THE OTHER HALF COMES WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE GIRL. PLUS A LITTLE EXTRA. IF IT WAS UP TO ME I'D GIVE YA EVERYTHING UP FRONT, BUT IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE WORKING FOR MR. ALCANTARA.⟩



⟨WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THESE TWO DIDN'T LEAVE TOWN?⟩



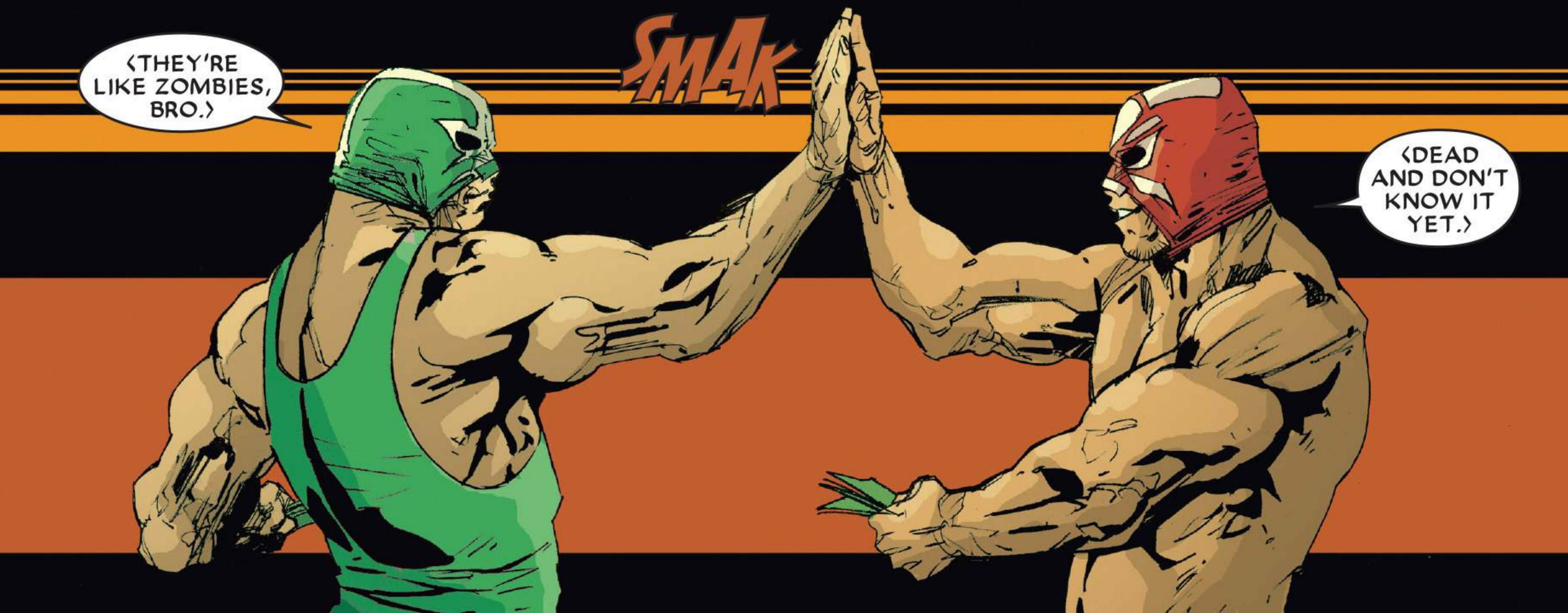
⟨THEY WERE SPOTTED BY ONE OF OUR GUYS COUPLE HOURS AGO. SOON AS HE WAS MADE, HE VANISHED. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS GRINGO. HE'S SLIPPERY. GOT MORE LIVES THAN AN ALLEY CAT.⟩



⟨JUAN, ALL THAT WORRYING'S GONNA MAKE YOU GRAY.⟩

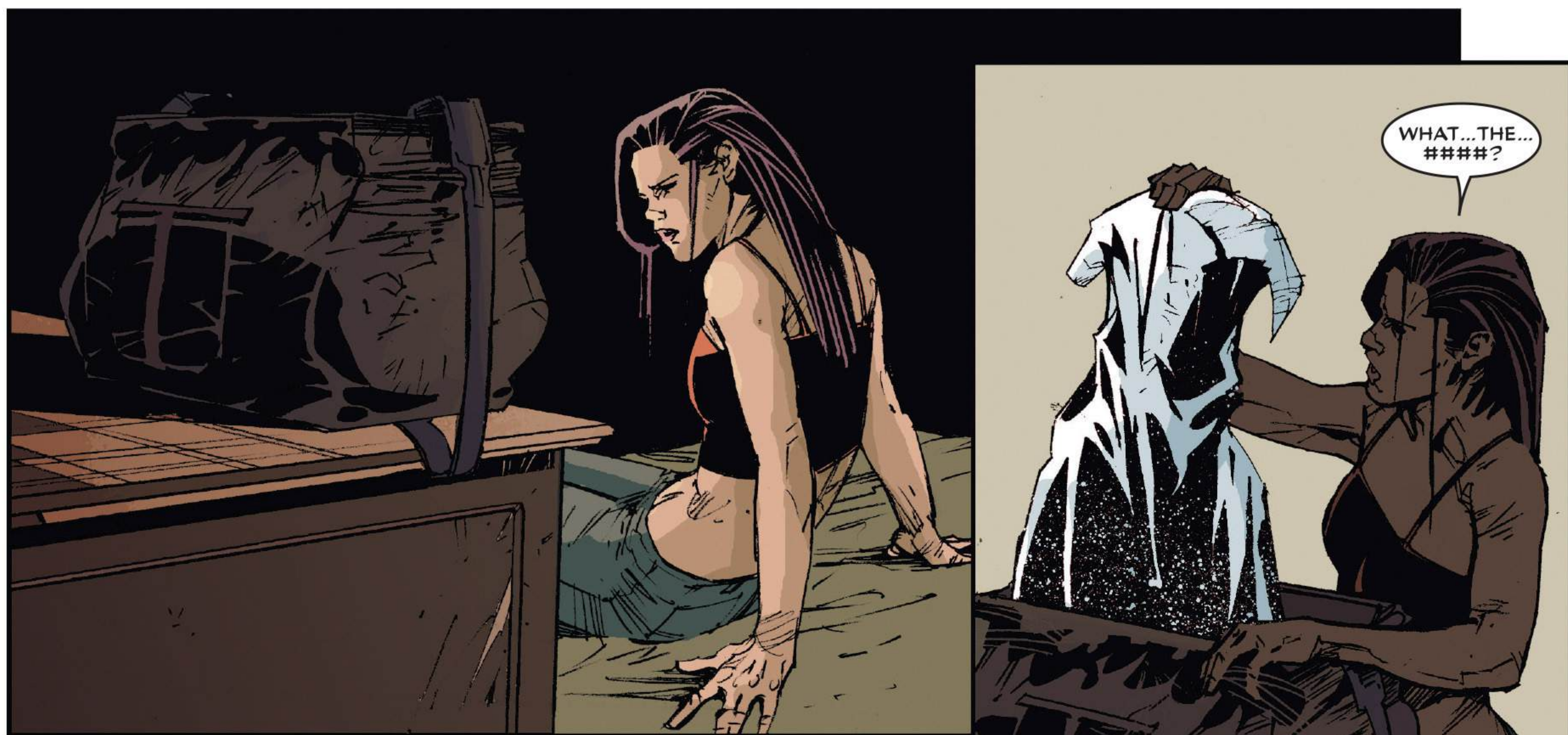
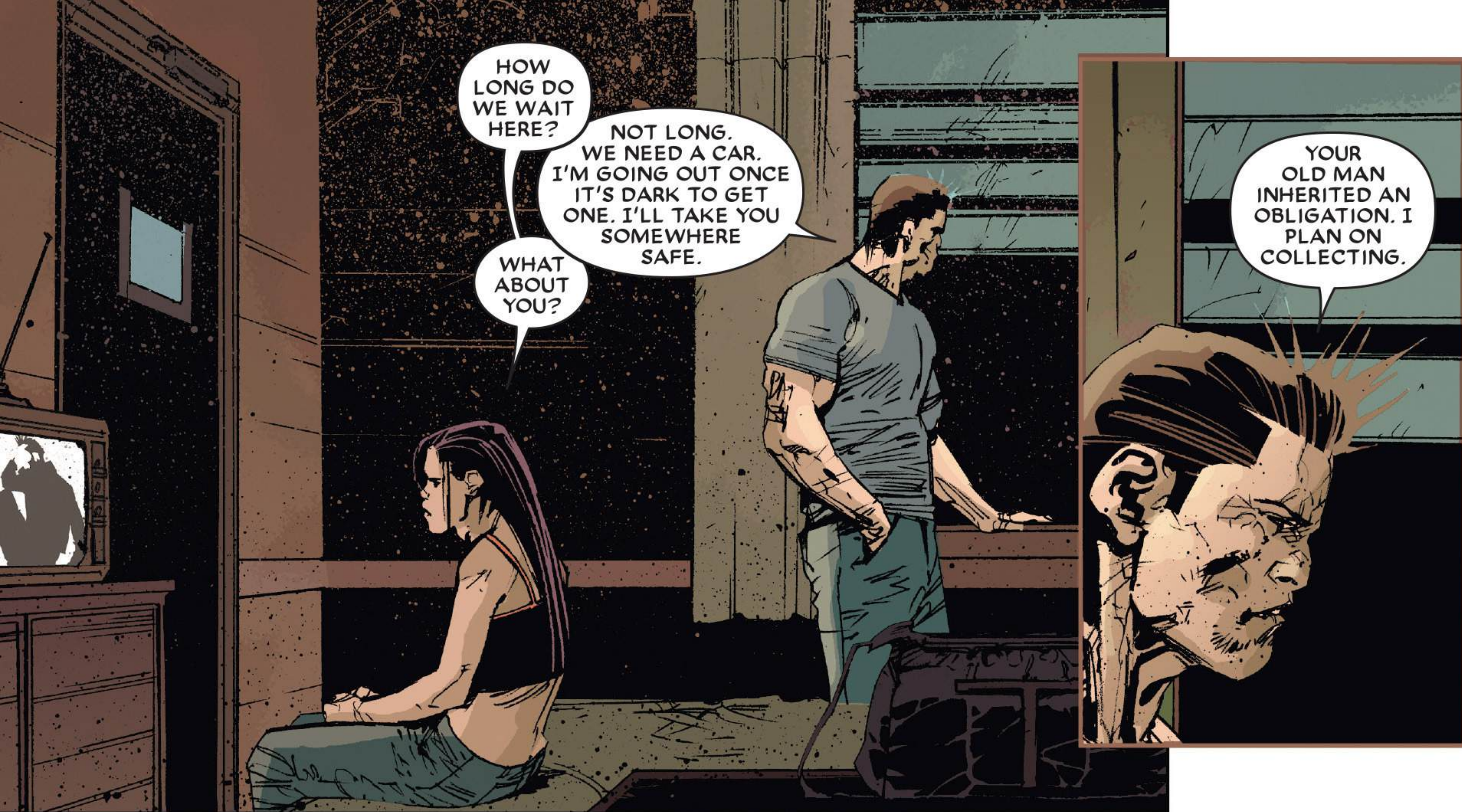
⟨THIS IS WHAT ME AND RIGO ARE GONNA DO: WE GONNA FIND 'EM AND PUT 'EM IN A BOX--GIFT WRAPPED.⟩

⟨WE'RE THE ##### ZAPATA BROTHERS.⟩



⟨THEY'RE LIKE ZOMBIES, BRO.⟩

⟨DEAD AND DON'T KNOW IT YET.⟩





To Be Continued...

MARVEL[®]
28 .com

BENSON
PALO
LOUGHRIDGE

MOON KNIGHT[®]





BEEN
HITTING THE
SAUCE PRETTY
HEAVY
LATELY.



MAYBE YOU SHOULD
EXAMINE THAT.
ANESTHETIZING
YOURSELF INSTEAD
OF DEALING WITH
YOUR ACTUAL
FEELINGS.

I'M JUST WORRIED
ABOUT YOU, JAKE. YOU'RE
FALLING BACK ON OLD
BEHAVIORS. BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT, YOU'LL BE A BROKEN-
DOWN DRUNK. AND WHAT
GOOD WILL YOU BE
TO ANY OF
US THEN?



YOU.

STOP
HIDING FROM
YOUR FEELINGS.
PUSHING THEM DOWN
DEEP FOR SOME
POOR SHRINK TO
DISCOVER.

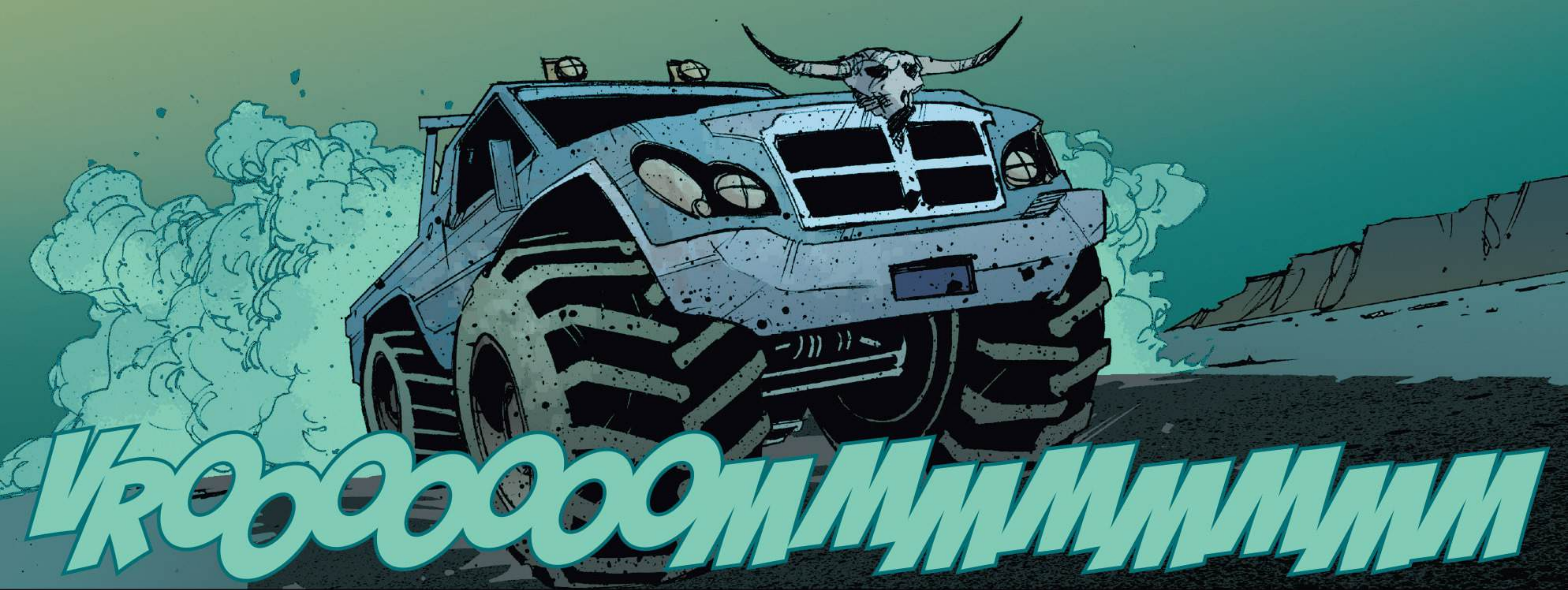
YOU WANT
TO KILL YOURSELF,
THERE ARE *FAR*
MORE ORIGINAL
WAYS TO
DO SO.



OFF.

PATHETIC.
INSTEAD OF
DRINKING YOURSELF
INTO A STUPOR, WHY
AREN'T YOU GETTING
BUSY WITH
HER?

OR
MAYBE THE
EQUIPMENT
AIN'T WORKING
RIGHT
ANYMORE.



I JUST DON'T GET YOU SOMETIMES, BRO. THIS DUDE'S BEEN RIDING US FOR, LIKE, FOREVER AND YOU *FRIEND* HIM JUST LIKE THAT?

WHAT WAS I *SUPPOSED* TO DO, RIGO? HE POKED ME. POKE, POKE, POKE, POKE--

BLOCK HIM, GUSTAVO.

C'MON. YOU *SERIOUS*?

HELL YEAH, I'M *SERIOUS*! YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIM IN HIGH SCHOOL, NOW HE'S LIKE YOUR *BEST FRIEND*?



IT'S *FACEBOOK*, BRO! WHY YOU GETTING SO BENT OUTTA SHAPE?

IT'S ABOUT *CHARACTER*, BRO. RAMÓN DISRESPECTED US. NOW EVERYONE THINKS IT'S ALL GOOD IN THE 'HOOD!

WHAT? HE KISSED YOUR GIRLFRIEND LIKE TEN YEARS AGO, BRO. MOVE ON.

UH-UH. I NEVER FORGET. I KEEP A LIST UP HERE. IN MY *HEAD*. AND HE'S ON IT, BRO, BIG TIME.



FINE. FINE--I'LL *BLOCK* HIM. IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE YOU SHUT UP.

FINE.

I SAID THAT.



ALONG
CAME A SPIDER,
WHO CRAWLED
DOWN *INSIDE*
HER--

SO WE
GOOD?

YEAH
YEAH. WE
GOOD.

HEY--
YOU NEED
ANOTHER
ENERGY
DRINK?

NAH.
I'M ALREADY
SPINNING LIKE
A DREIDEL.

A WHAT?

NOTHING.
A TOP, BRO.



GOTCHA!



DANG.
MY STOMACH'S
GROWLING LIKE
A JUNKYARD
DOG.

AFTER
THIS, WE GET
OURSELVES
SOME GYROS.

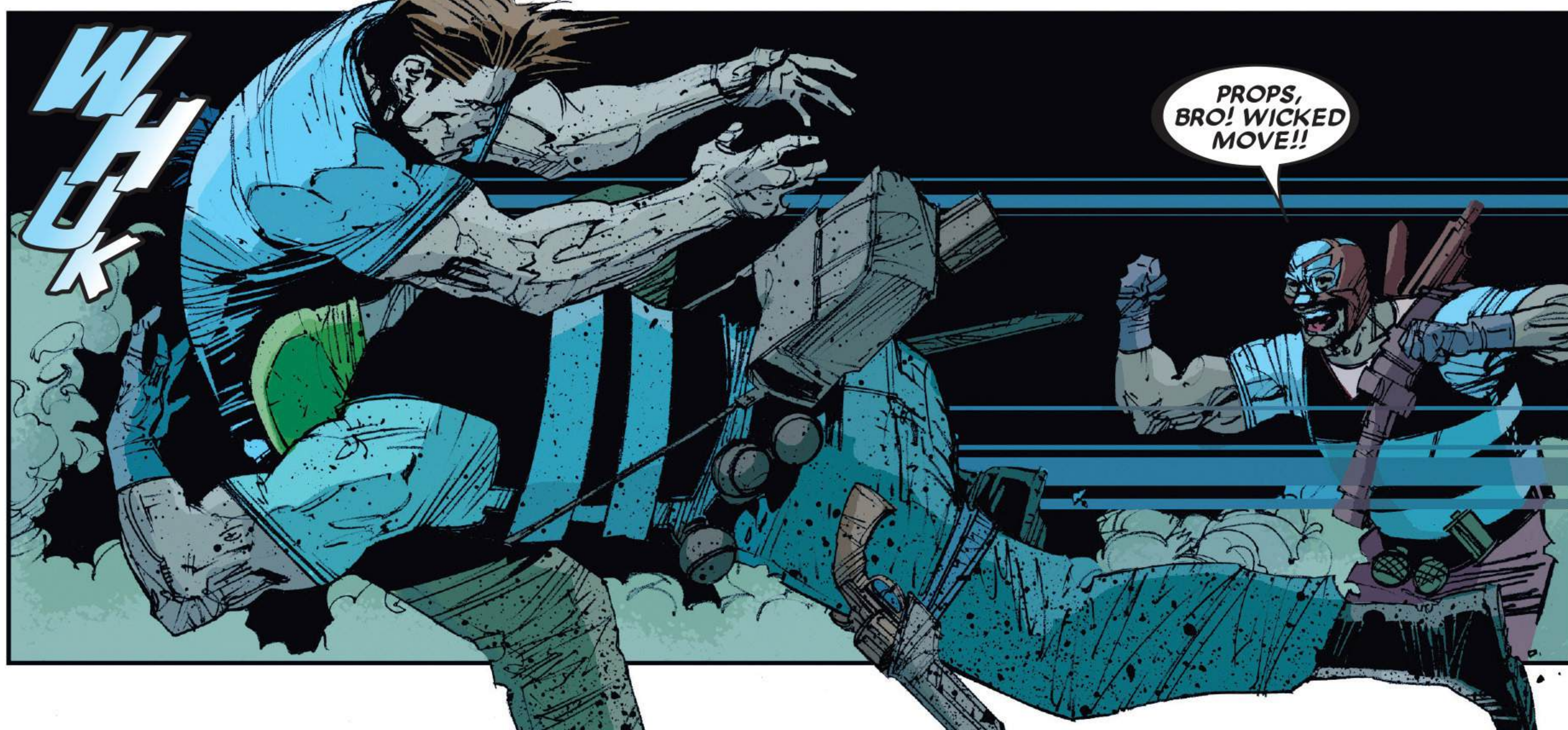
MMM.
GOOD
CALL.

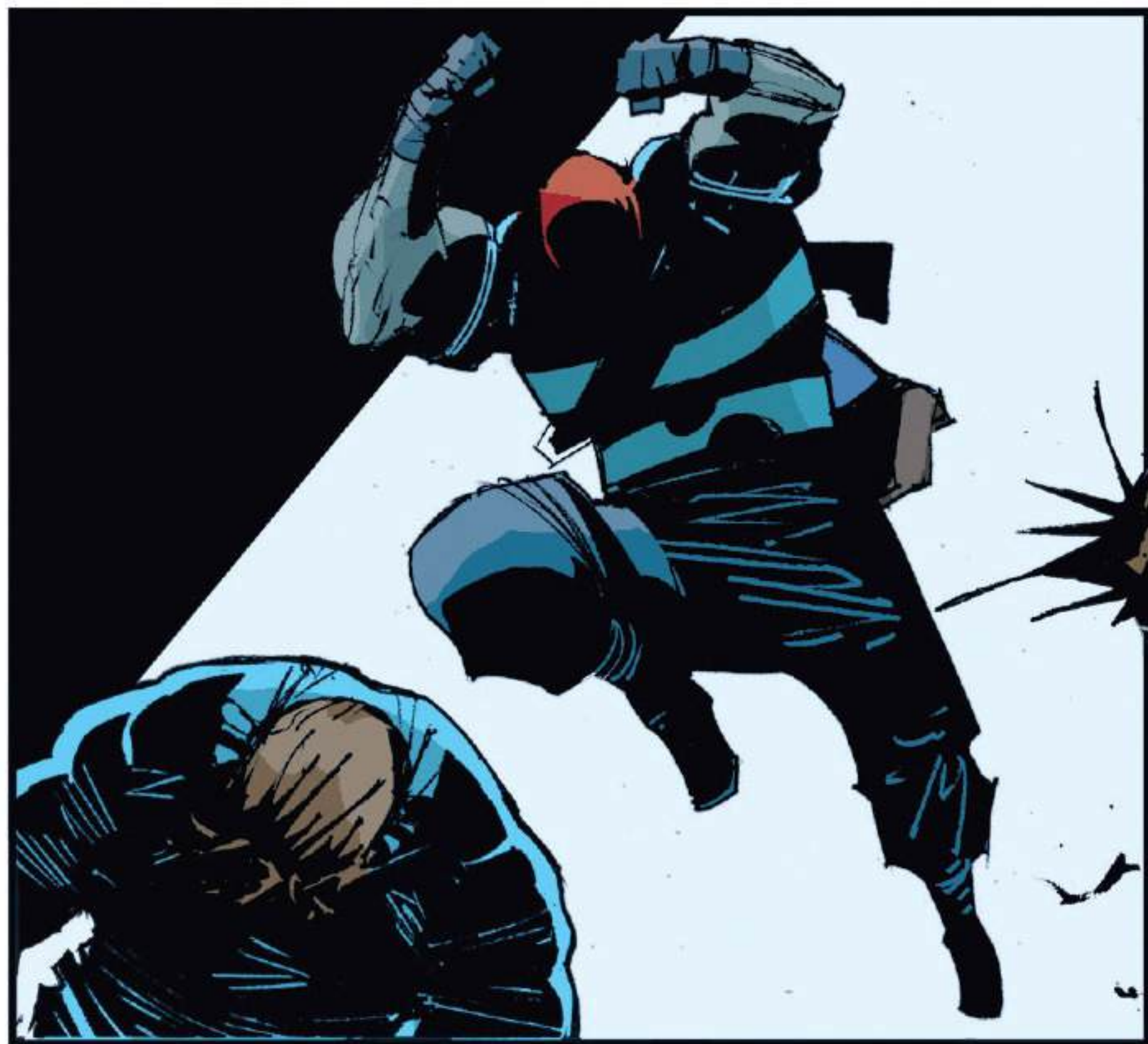
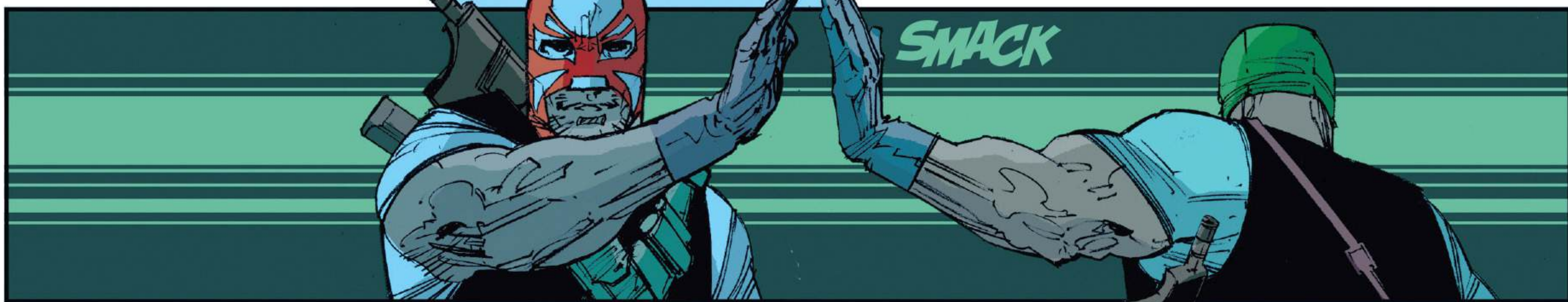
YOU GOT
MONEY? I
FORGOT MY
WALLET.

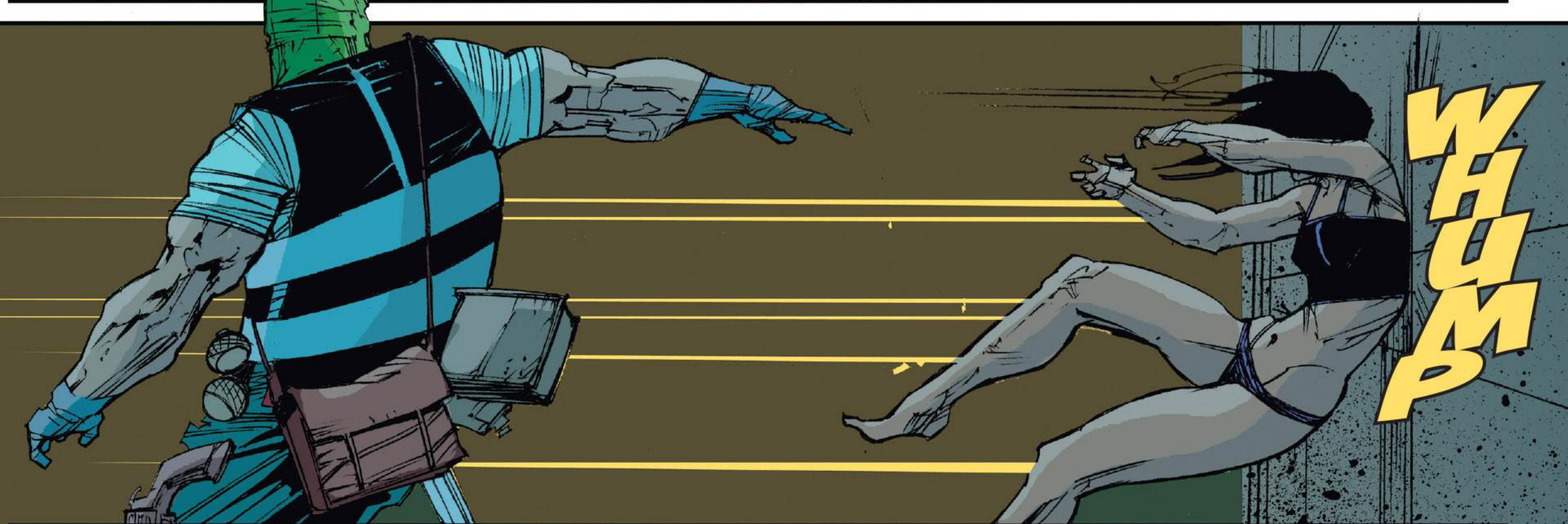


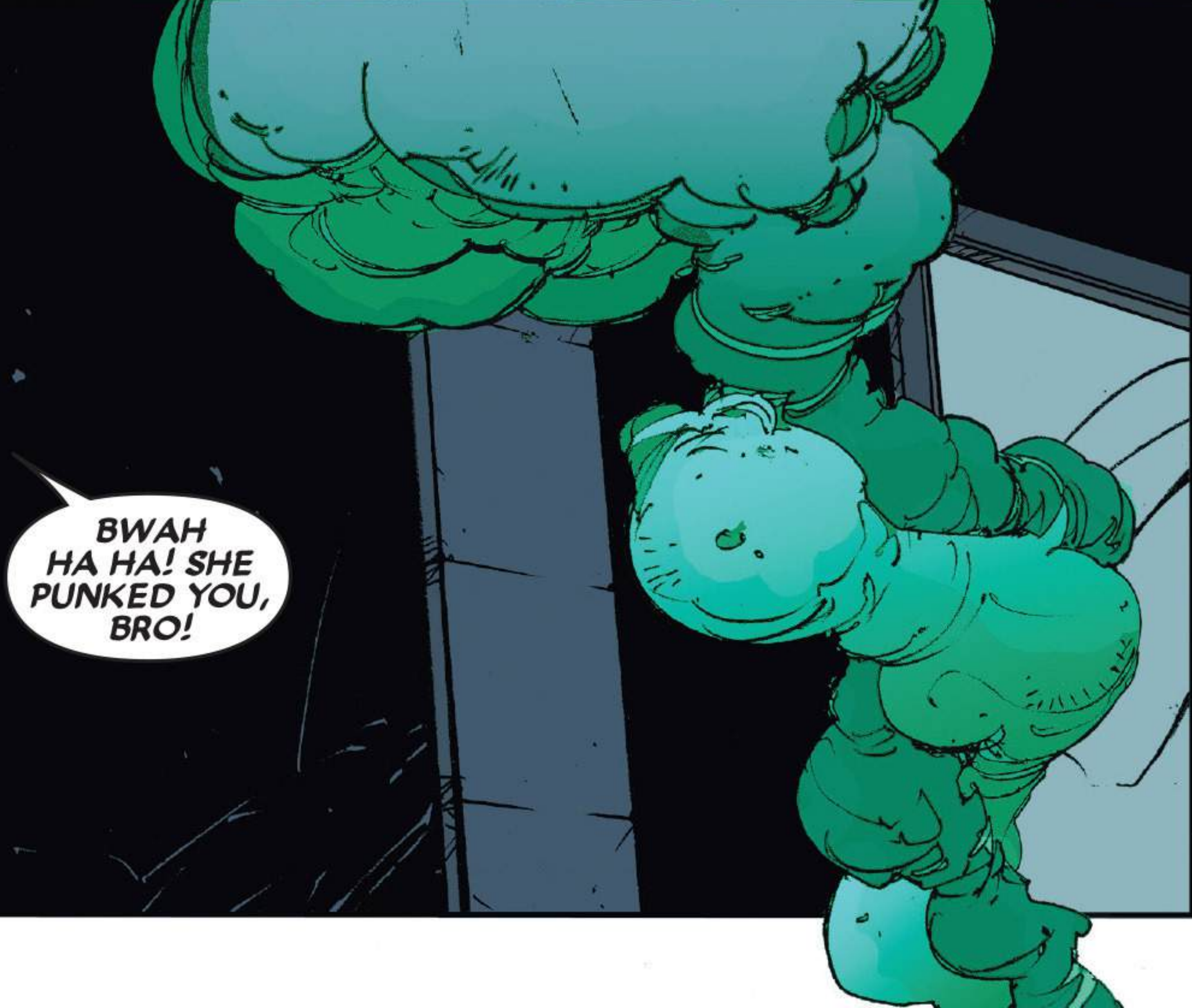
BOOM









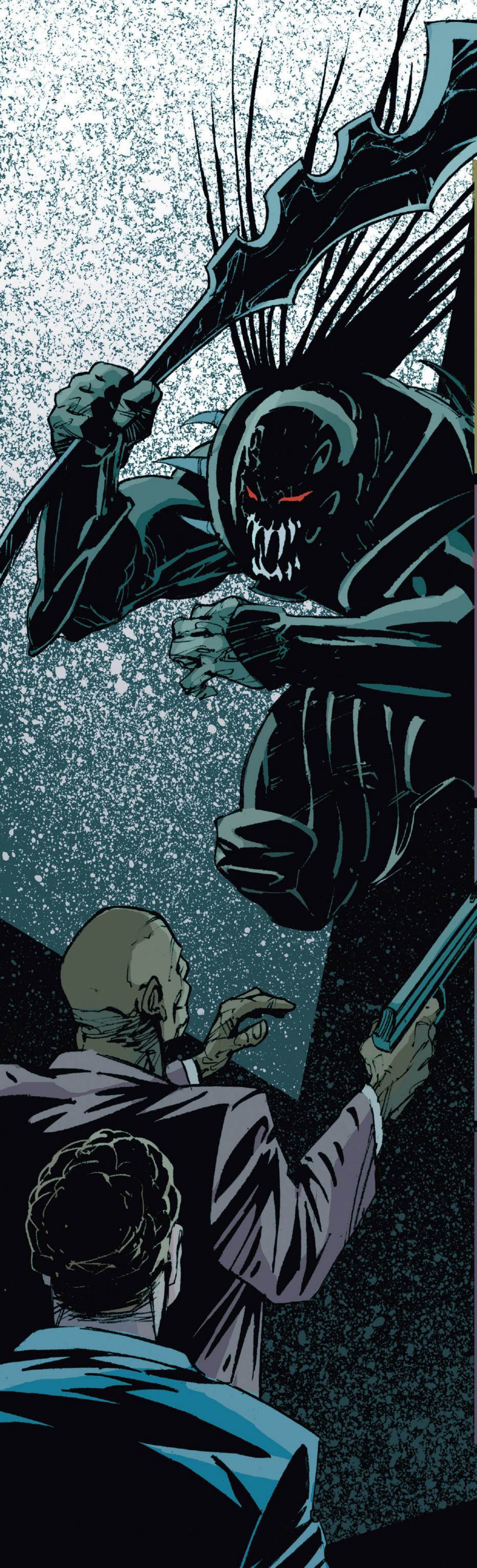






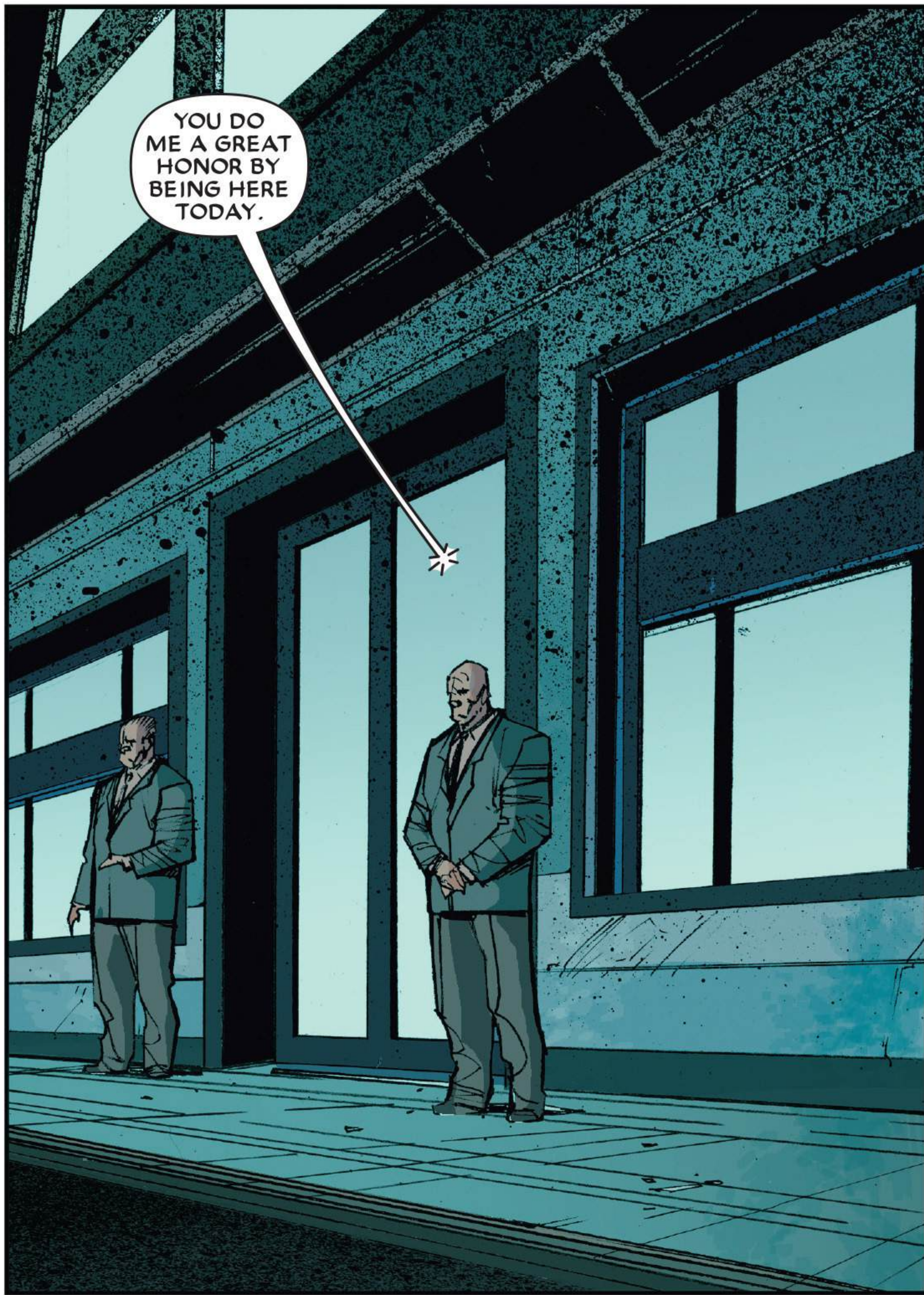








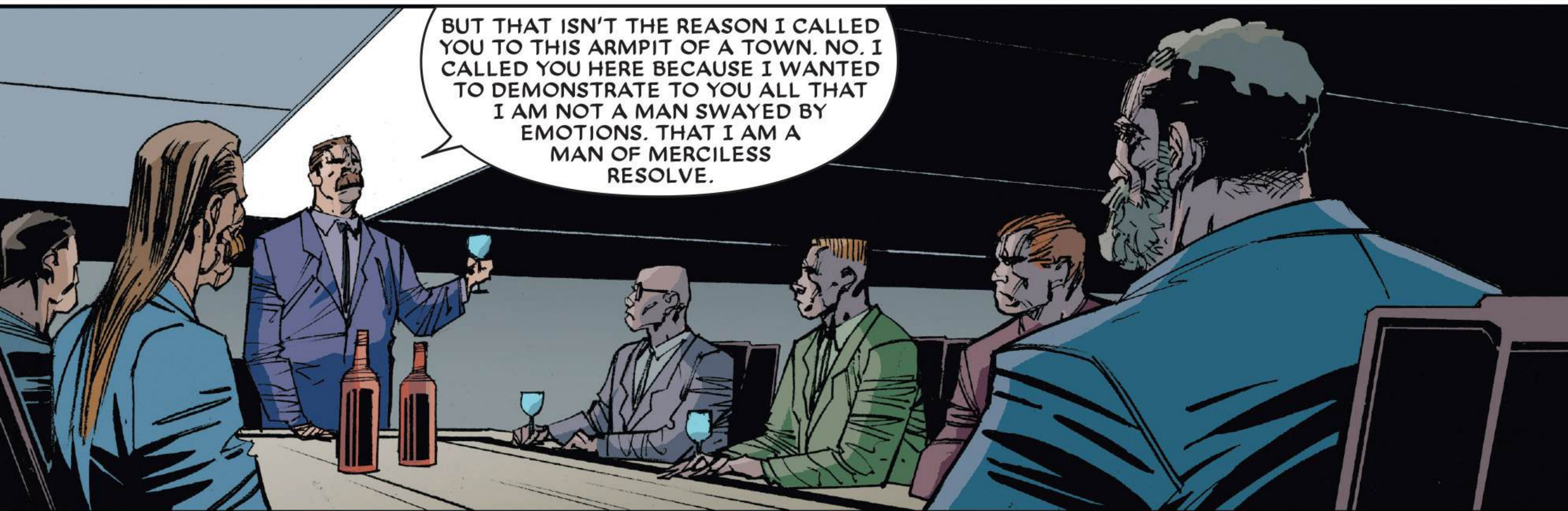




YOU DO ME A GREAT HONOR BY BEING HERE TODAY.



WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE-- THIS MERGER BETWEEN OUR TWO FAMILIES--IS THE FUTURE. FOR AS LONG AS WE ARE GOVERNED BY A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SOVEREIGNTY, REINFORCED WITH AN EIGHTEEN-CENTURY JUDICIAL SYSTEM DEFENDED BY NINETEENTH-CENTURY LAW ENFORCEMENT TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH TWENTIETH-CENTURY TECHNOLOGY--THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BELONGS TO US!



BUT THAT ISN'T THE REASON I CALLED YOU TO THIS ARMPIT OF A TOWN. NO. I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE TO YOU ALL THAT I AM NOT A MAN SWAYED BY EMOTIONS. THAT I AM A MAN OF MERCILESS RESOLVE.

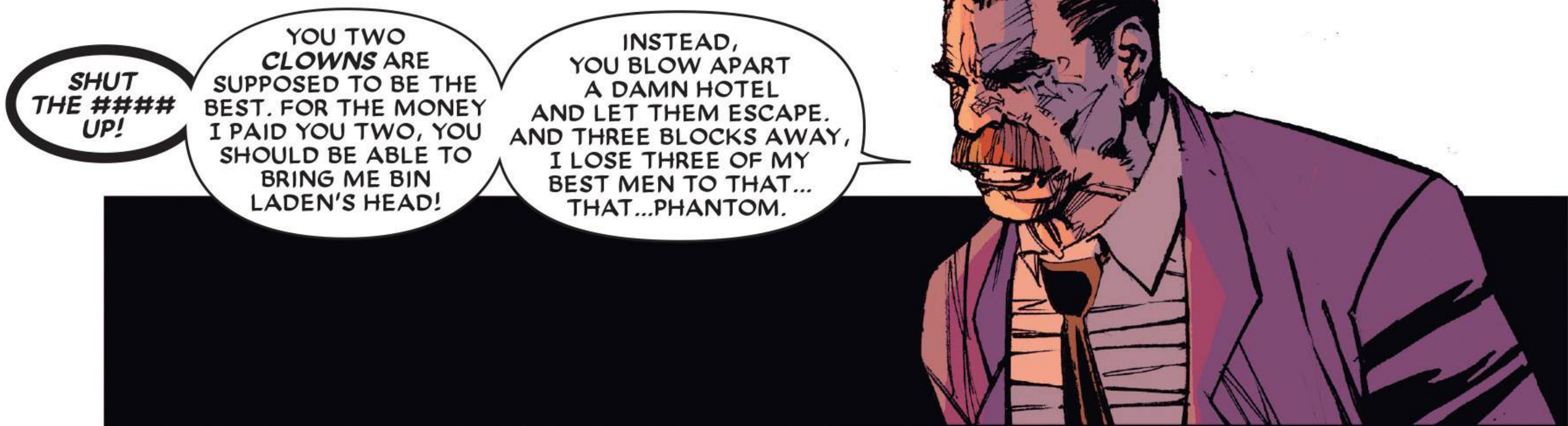


SOMEONE VERY CLOSE HAS BETRAYED ME. MY VERY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD. BUT NOT ONLY HAS SHE BETRAYED ME--SHE HAS BETRAYED EVERYONE AT THIS TABLE. AND AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME, SHE MUST BE PUNISHED.



AND YOU, MY FRIENDS, WILL BEAR WITNESS TO THIS SO THAT MY LOYALTY WILL NEVER BE IN QUESTION.







YOU'RE
GONNA TAKE
DOWN--

LIKE A
BAG OF
CEMENT.



MOVE
AN INCH AND
I SPRAY YOUR
HEAD!

PUT
AWAY THE
GUNS.

SIR?

PUT
THEM
AWAY.

LISTEN
TO YOUR
BOSS,
PRINCESS.



ALRIGHT,
THEN.

THIS AZTEC-
WANNABE PUNK'S
BEEN POLLUTING THE
COUNTRYSIDE FOR HOWEVER
LONG, CAUSING EVERYBODY
LOTS OF GRIEF, COSTING
BUSINESSMEN LIKE
YOU LOTS OF
MONEY.

WE'RE
GONNA PUT
HIM TO BED.
IT'LL BE LIKE
CHRISTMAS
CAME EARLY.



YOU BRING
ME THE TOLTEC'S
HEAD AND IT'LL BE
LIKE A HOLIDAY
FOR THE REST OF
YOUR LIVES.



I LIKE
THE SOUND
OF THAT.

HEY, BRO,
MIND PICKING
UP THE BAR
TAB AND GIVE
A NICE
TIP?



I FORGOT
MY WALLET.



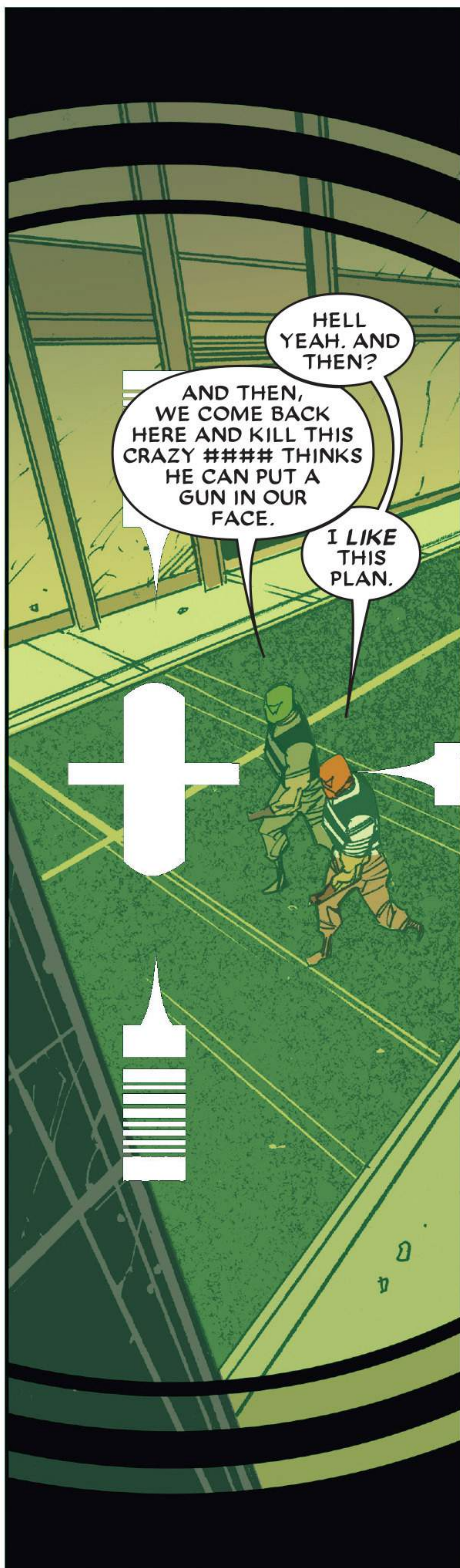
YO, BRO,
YOU KNOW WE
AREN'T ACTUALLY
GOIN' AFTER
TOLTEC,
RIGHT?



YOU'RE
CRAZY BUT
YOU'RE NOT *THAT*
CRAZY, BRO. I
FIGURED YOU HAD
ANOTHER
PLAN.

SO SPILL,
BRO. WHAT
IS IT?

IT'S A
2-PART PLAN:
FIRST, WE FIND
THE GIRL AND
HER GRINGO
BODYGUARD.



HELL
YEAH. AND
THEN?

AND THEN,
WE COME BACK
HERE AND KILL THIS
CRAZY ##### THINKS
HE CAN PUT A
GUN IN OUR
FACE.

I *LIKE*
THIS
PLAN.



'COURSE
YOU DO, BRO.
IT'S *FOOLPROOF*. THE
ONLY THING STANDING
BETWEEN US AND A
MOUND OF MONEY IS
THAT GRINGO AND THIS
CHUCKLEHEAD,
ALCANTARA.

WE TAKE
CARE OF
THEM--WE'RE
LIVING
LARGE.

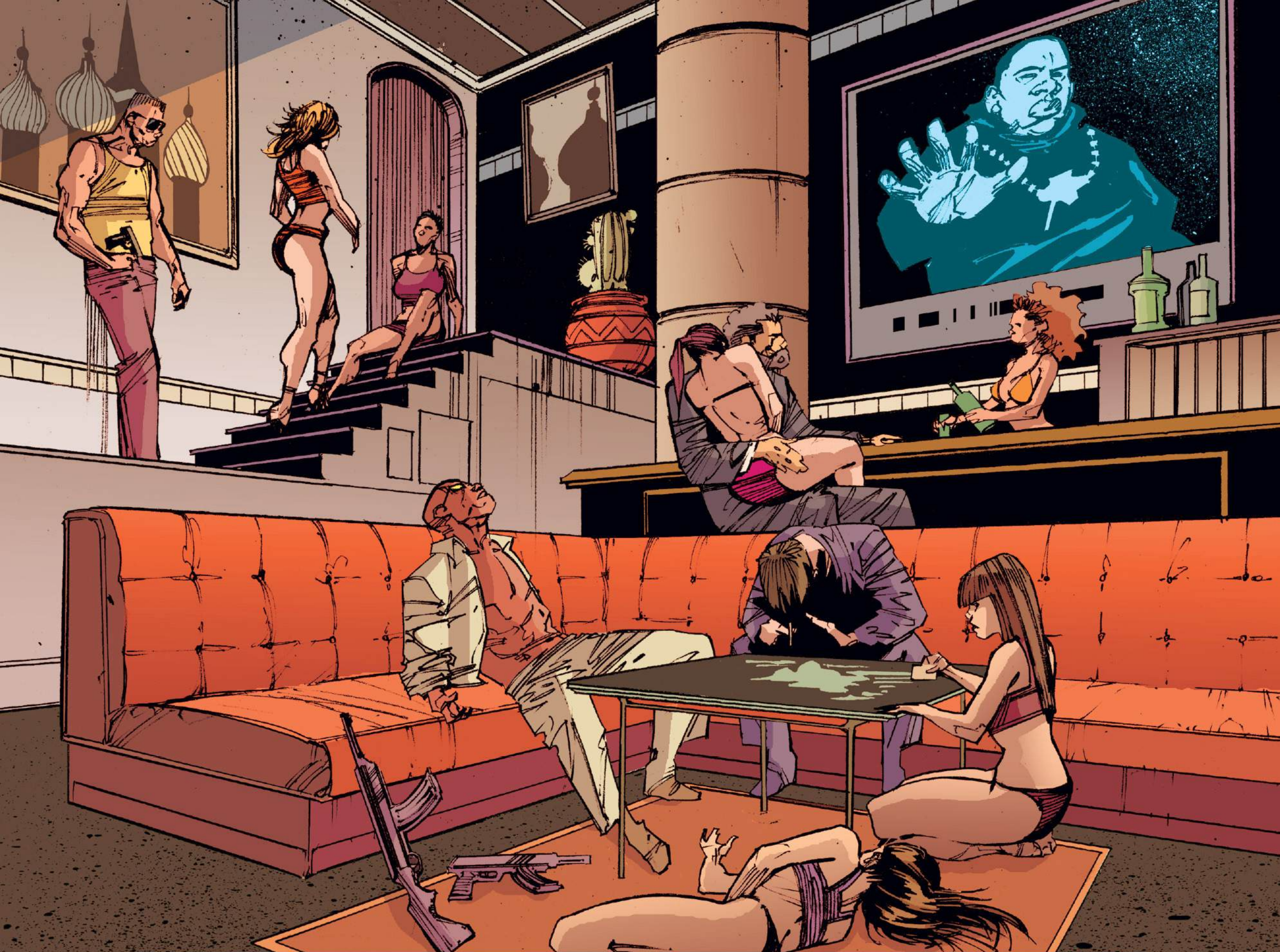


To Be Continued...

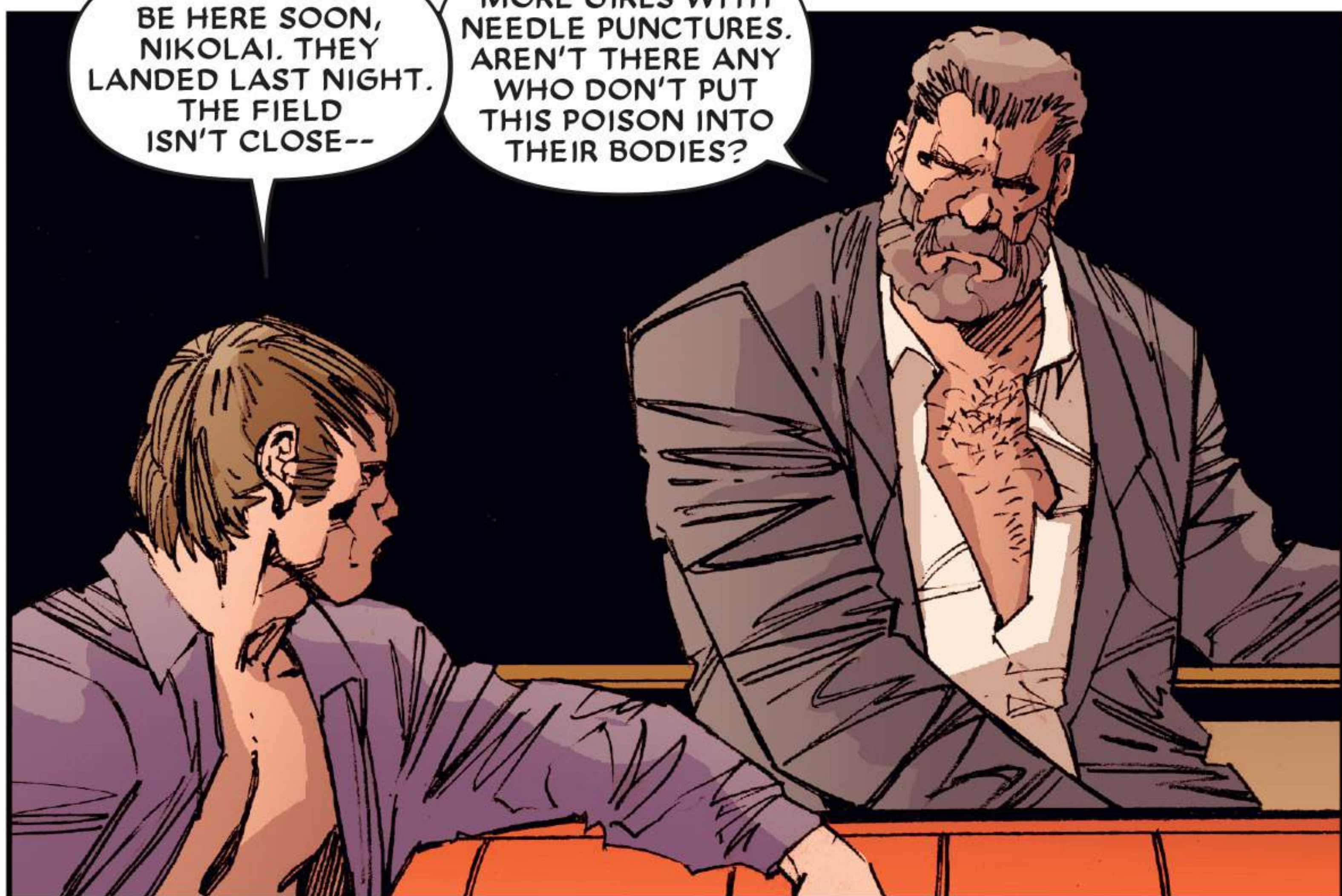
MOON KNIGHT[®]



BENSON
PALO
LOUGHRIDGE



WE NEED **FRESH** GIRLS, SEBASTIAN. THESE ONES ARE USED. WILTING LIKE DEAD FLOWERS.

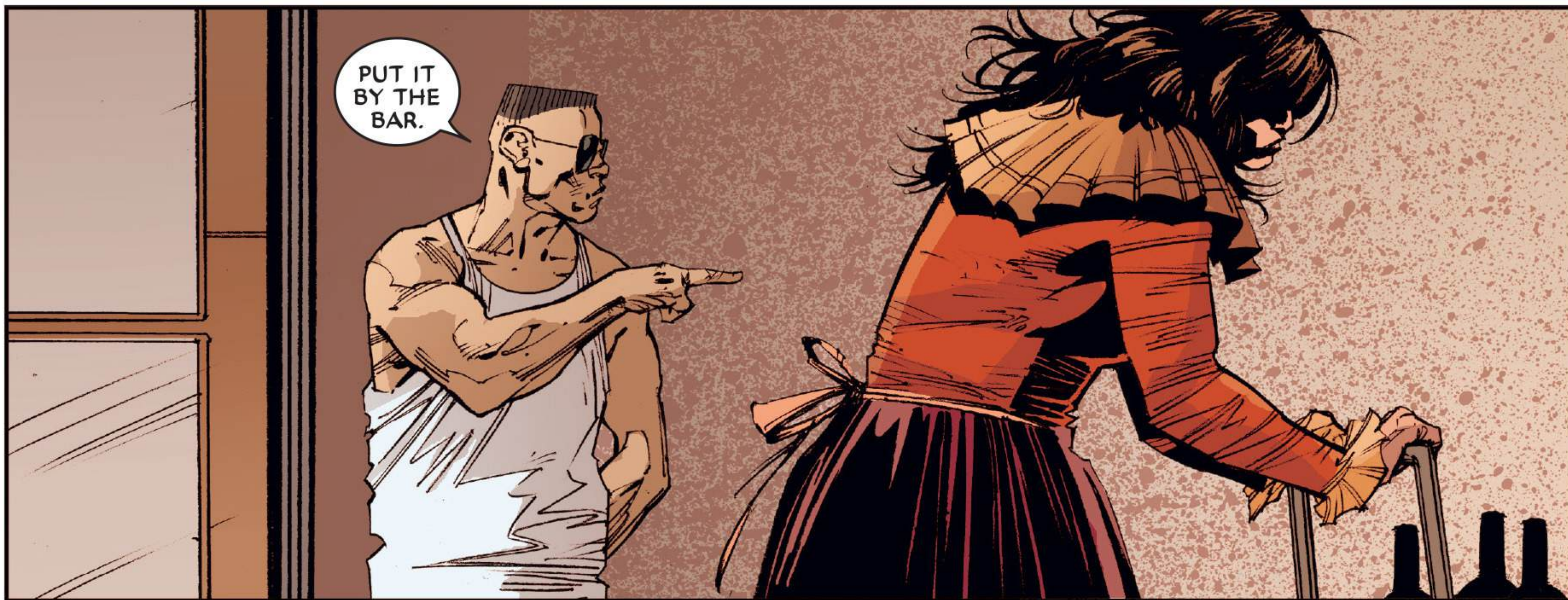
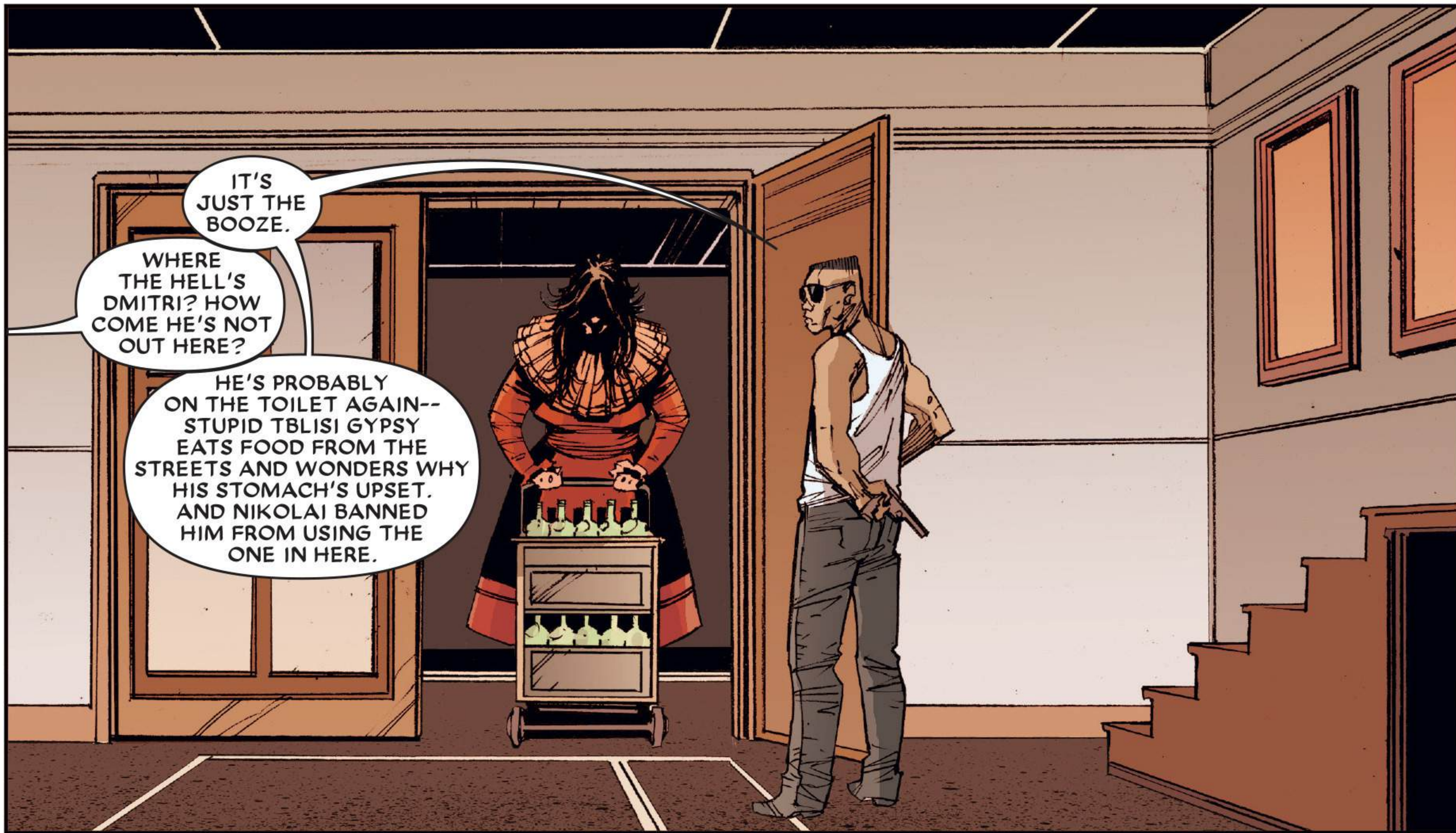


THEY'LL BE HERE SOON, NIKOLAI. THEY LANDED LAST NIGHT. THE FIELD ISN'T CLOSE---

AND NO MORE GIRLS WITH NEEDLE PUNCTURES. AREN'T THERE ANY WHO DON'T PUT THIS POISON INTO THEIR BODIES?



THEY **ALL** LIE. BETTER A DRUG HABIT THAN SYPHILIS. WE COULD ALWAYS GET LOCAL GIRLS.





I CANNOT CARRY ON ANOTHER DAY IN THIS COUNTRY. THESE PEOPLE. THE SMELLS. IF I NEVER COME BACK, I'LL DIE A HAPPY MAN.

MAYBE YOU DON'T SHARE THIS WITH OUR NEWFOUND FAMILY.

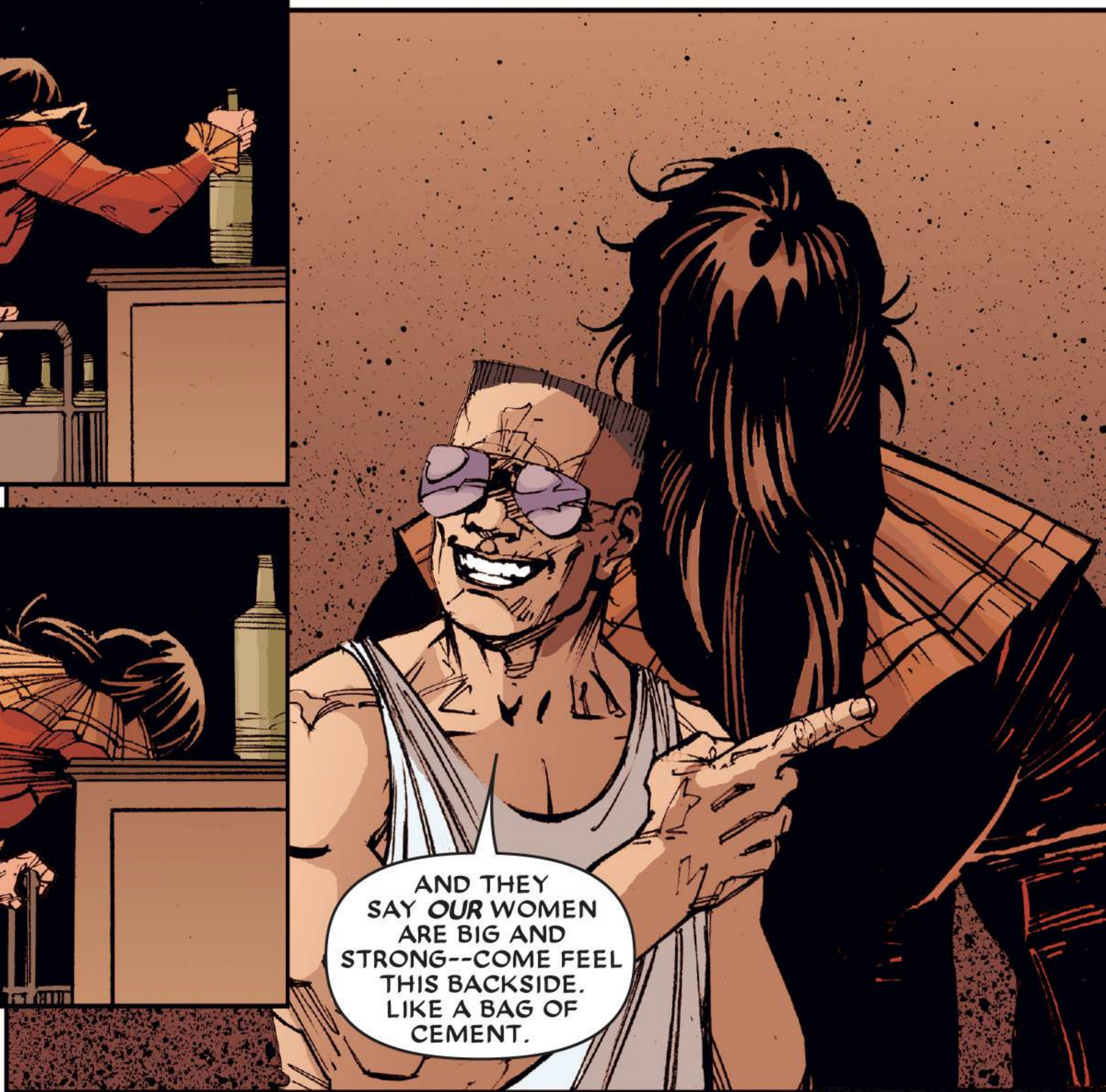
I WON'T HAVE TO. BECAUSE I WILL NEVER NEED TO STEP FOOT BACK HERE AGAIN. YOU ON THE OTHER HAND-- THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.



I DUNNO, NIKOLAI. IT'S NOT SO BAD.

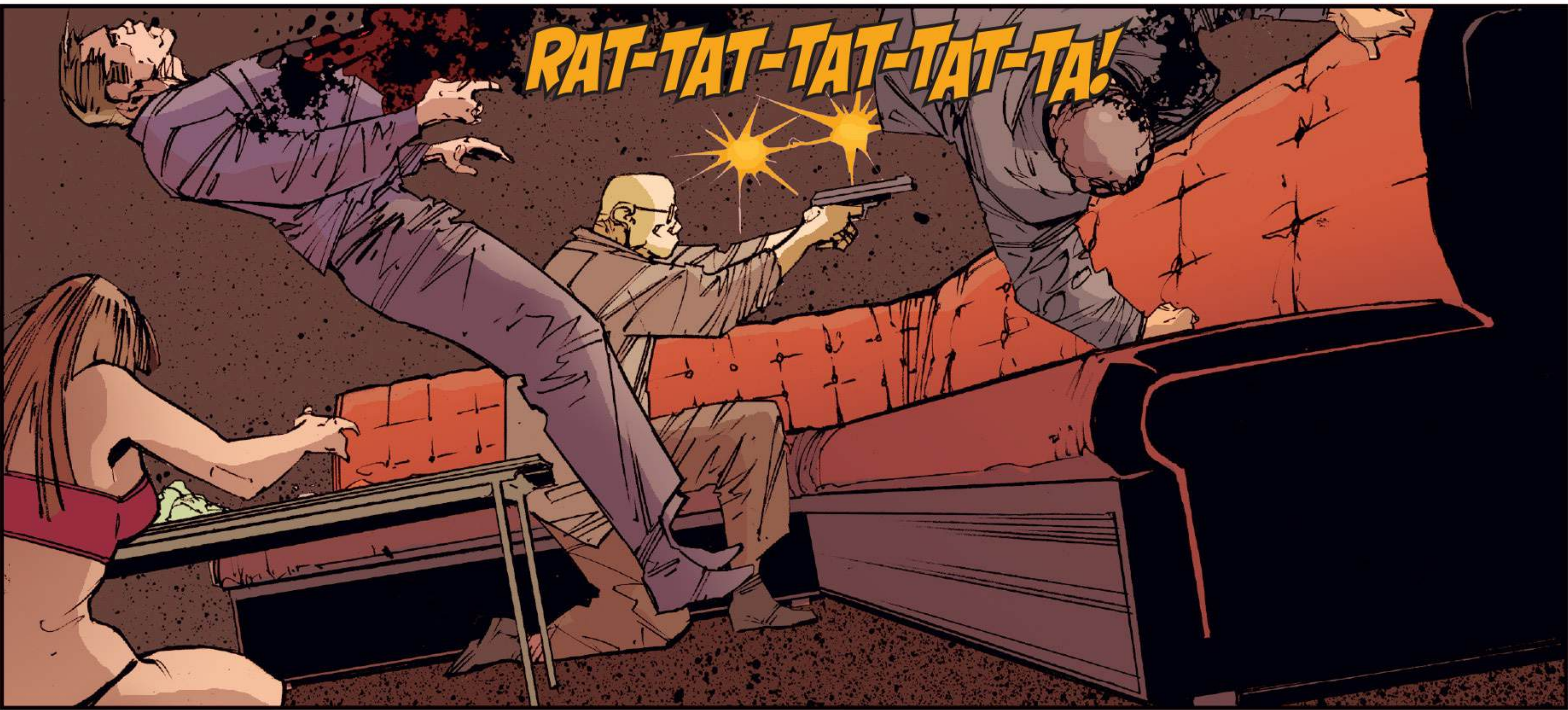


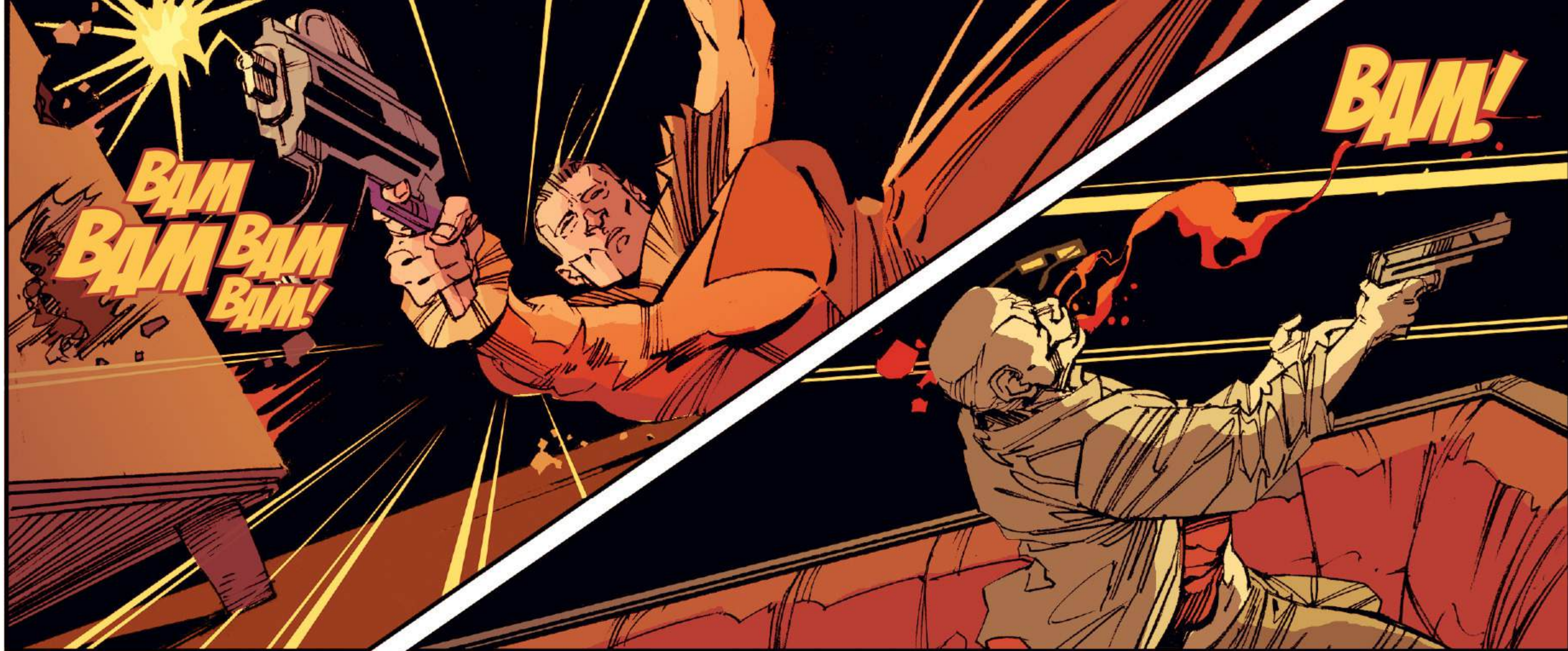
JESUS, LADY.

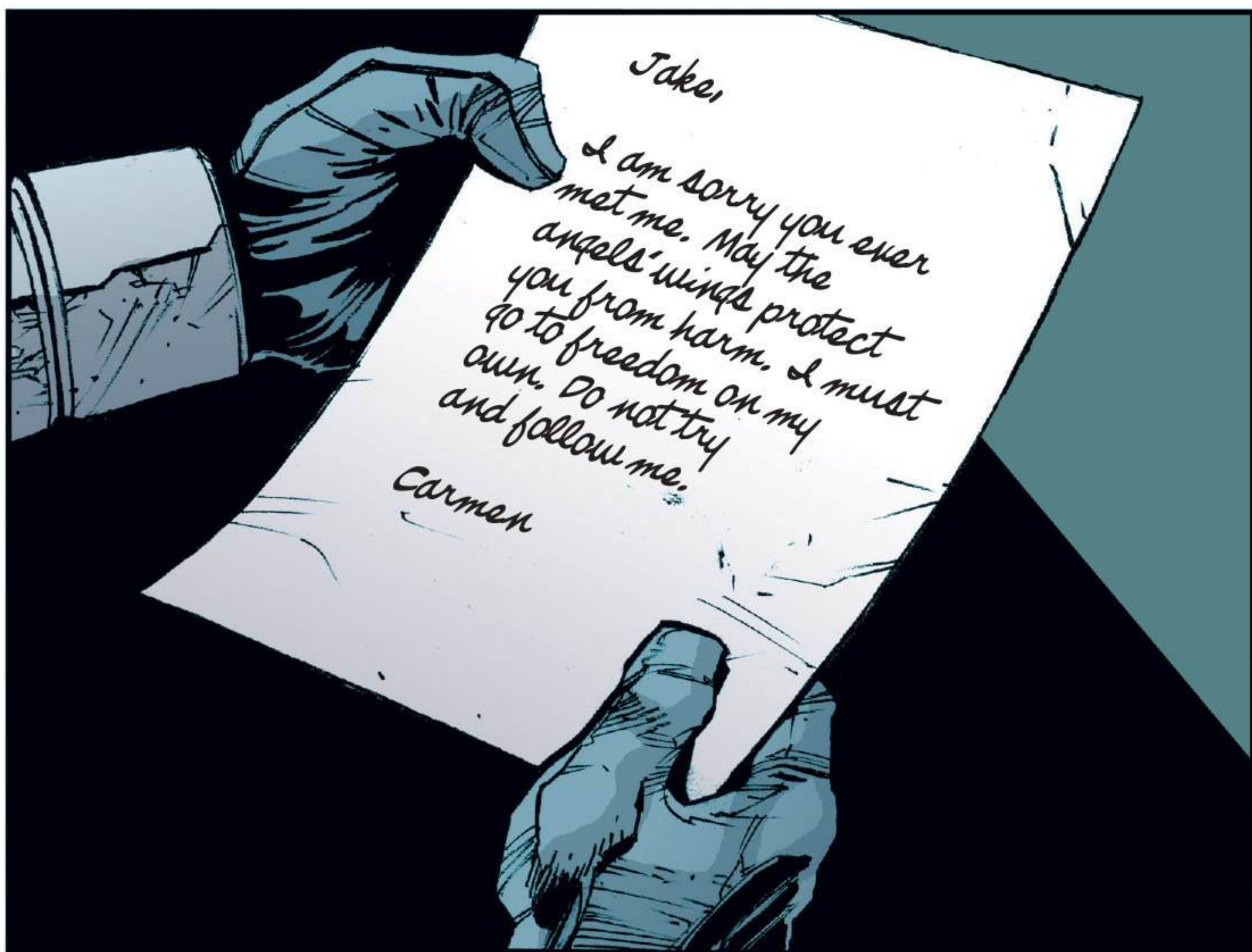
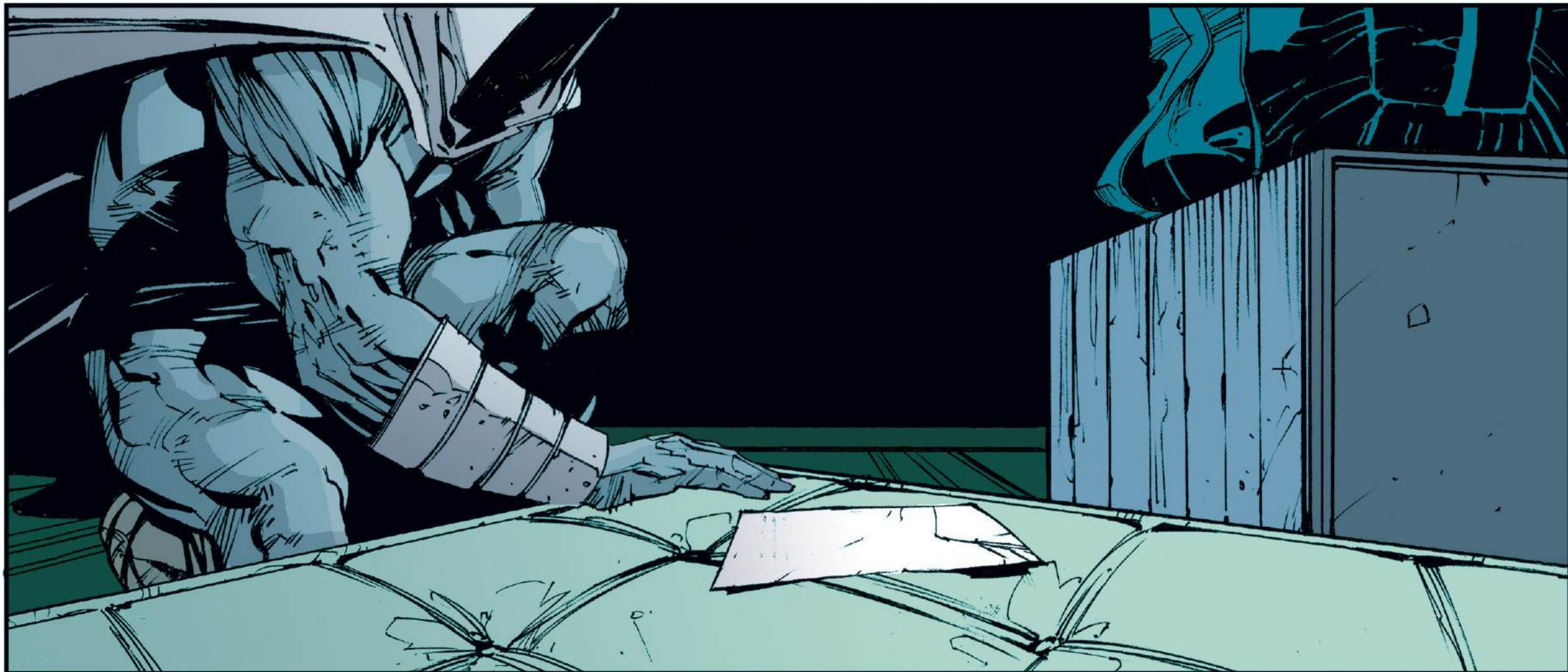
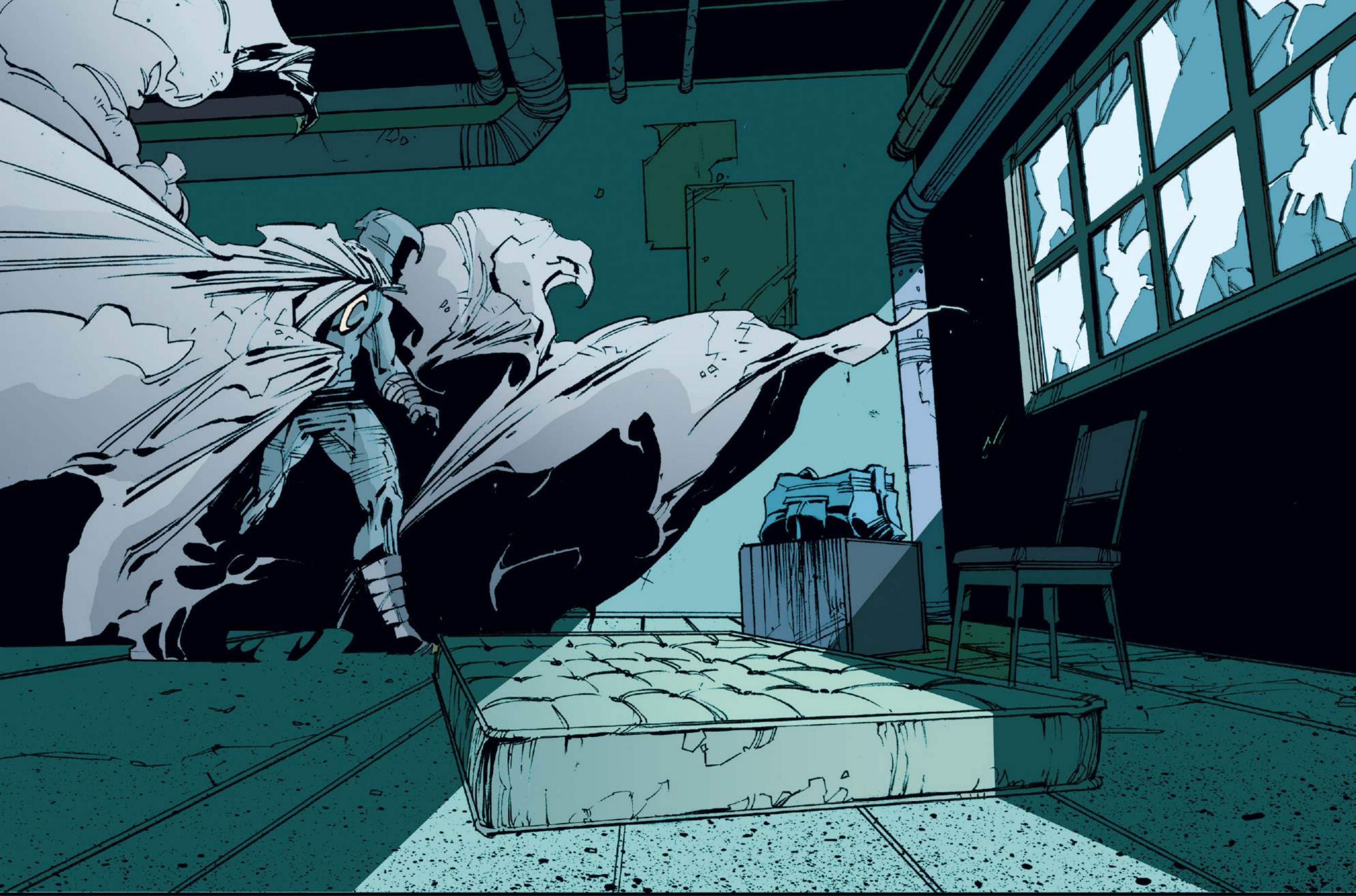


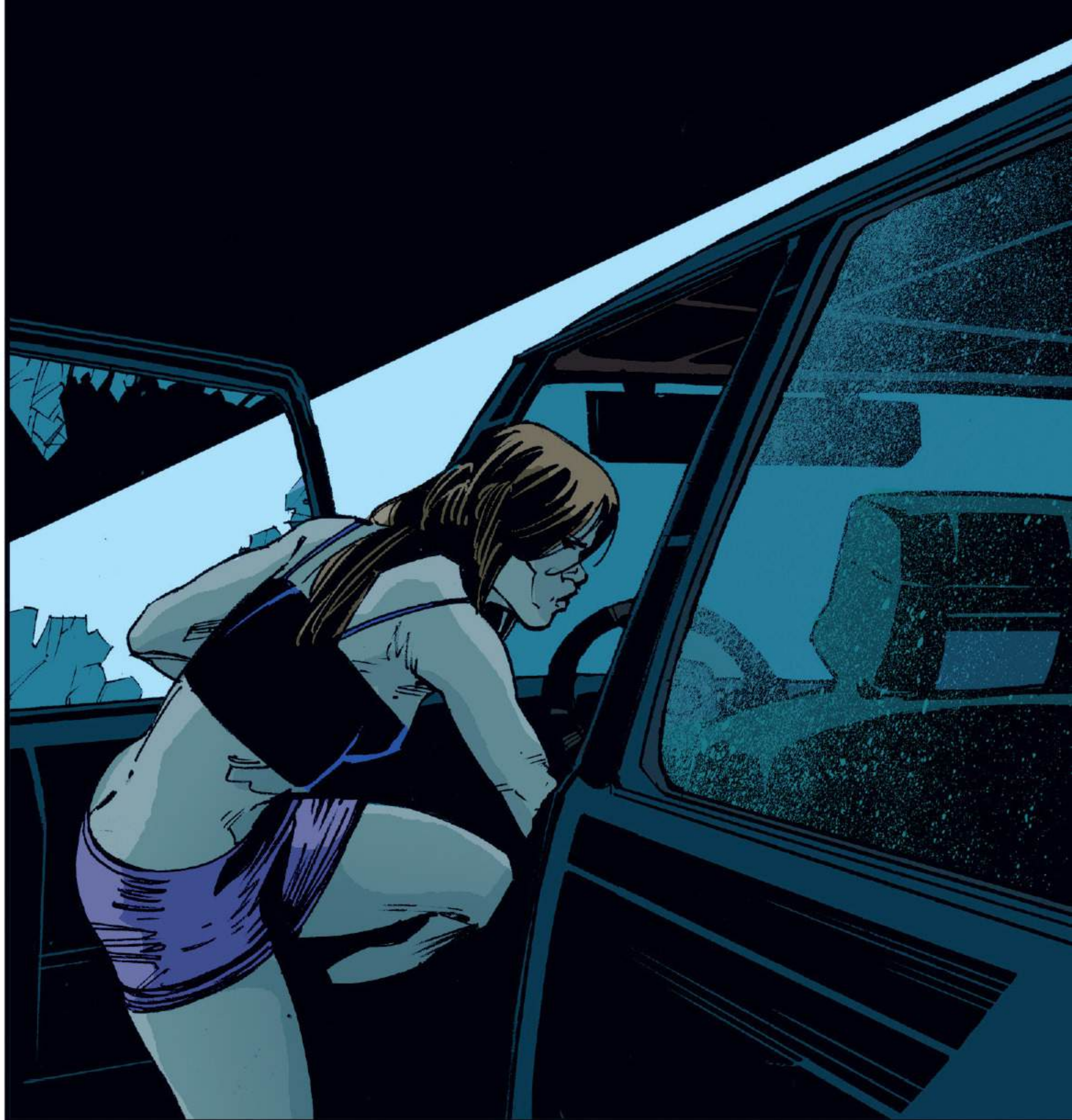
AND THEY SAY OUR WOMEN ARE BIG AND STRONG--COME FEEL THIS BACKSIDE. LIKE A BAG OF CEMENT.

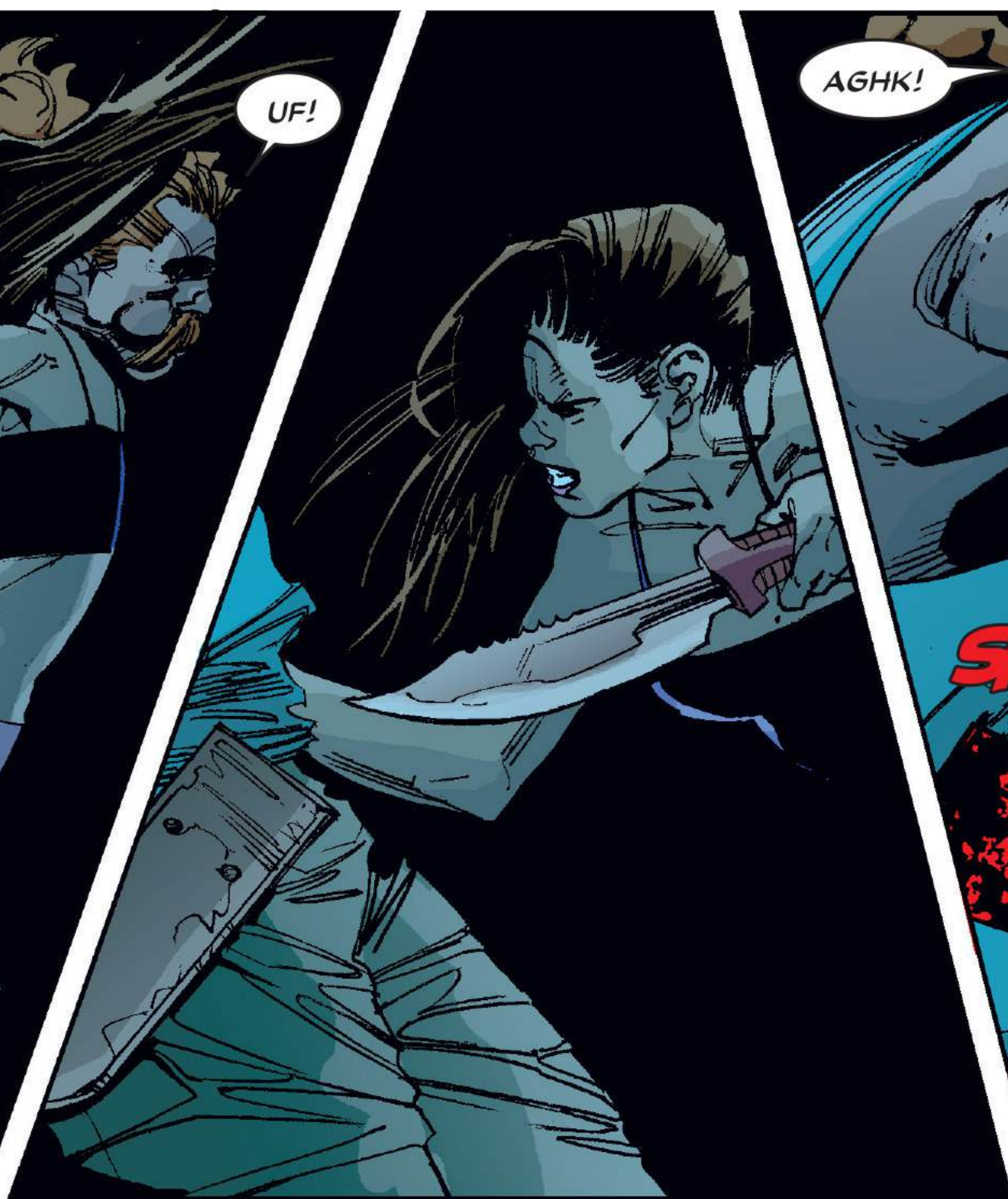
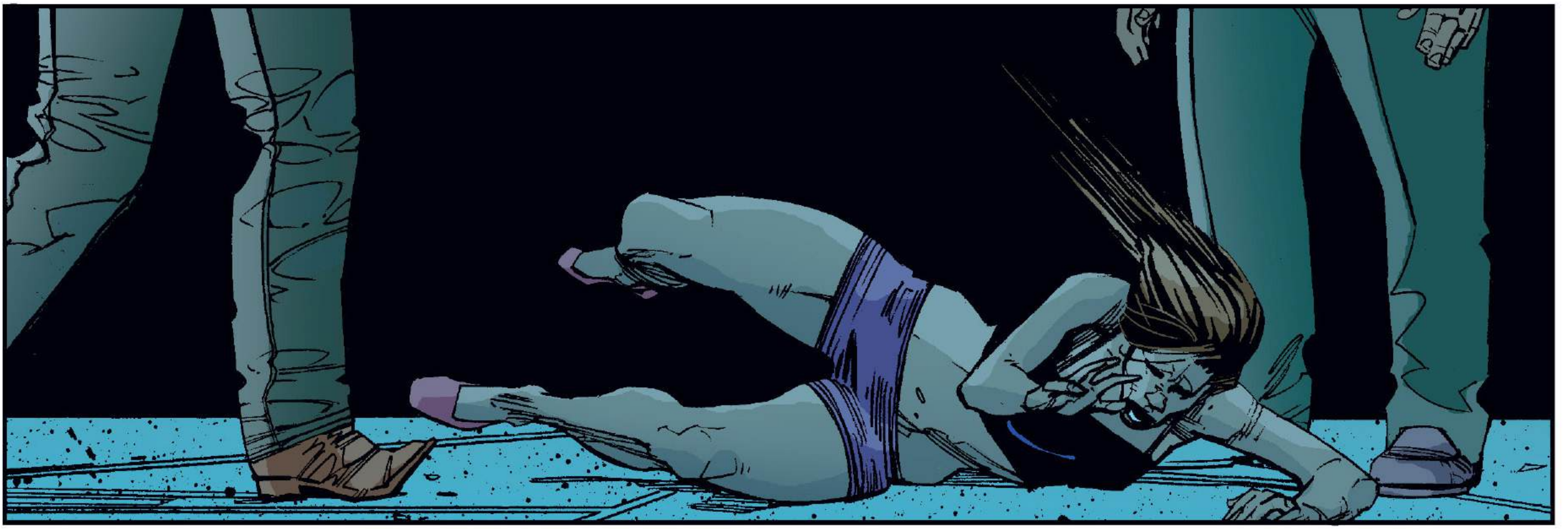






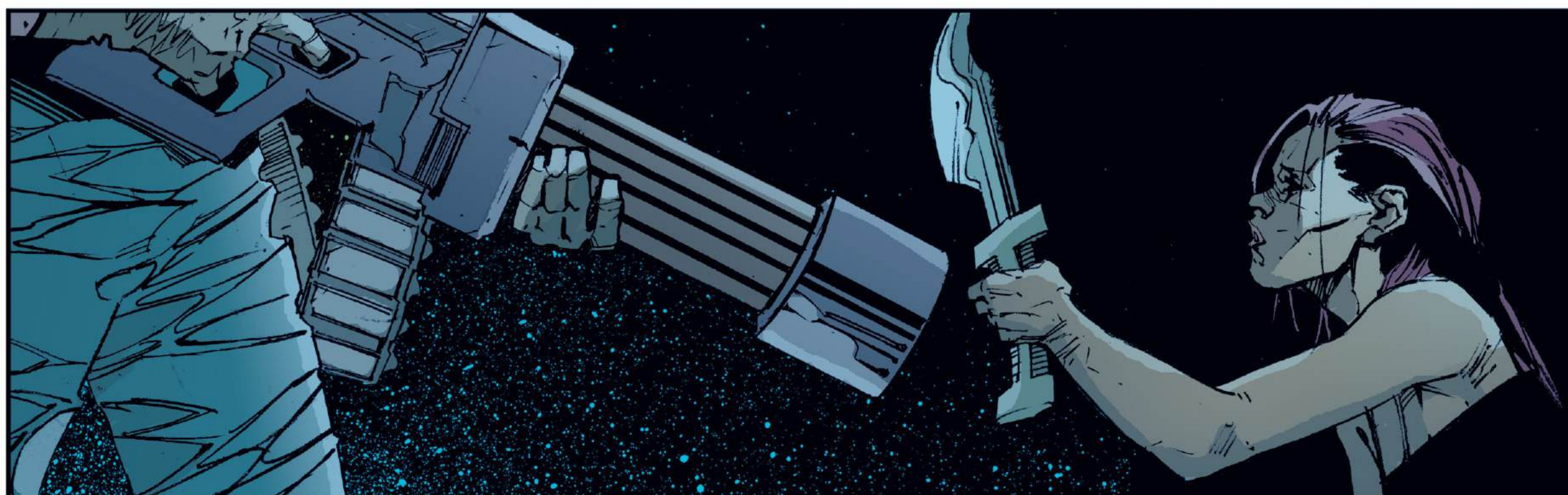














LOOK AT HER FACE, BRO. THEY JACKED HER UP. HOW DO YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT-- TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT-- LIKE DEFACING A WORK OF ART.

DAMN, BRO. LISTEN TO YOU.

WHAT? I'M JUST SAYING IT'S MESS'D UP.



LOOK, BRO. SHE'S SMOKIN'-- BUT DON'T BE GETTING ALL SOFT ON ME. REFER TO PAGE ONE OF THE ASSASSIN MANUAL: DO NOT GET ATTACHED TO YOUR TARGET.

WHO'S GETTING ATTACHED? I'M JUST SAYING IT'S UNPROFESSIONAL TO BE STRONG-ARMING YOUR HOSTAGE--



ESPECIALLY WITH EYES LIKE THAT.

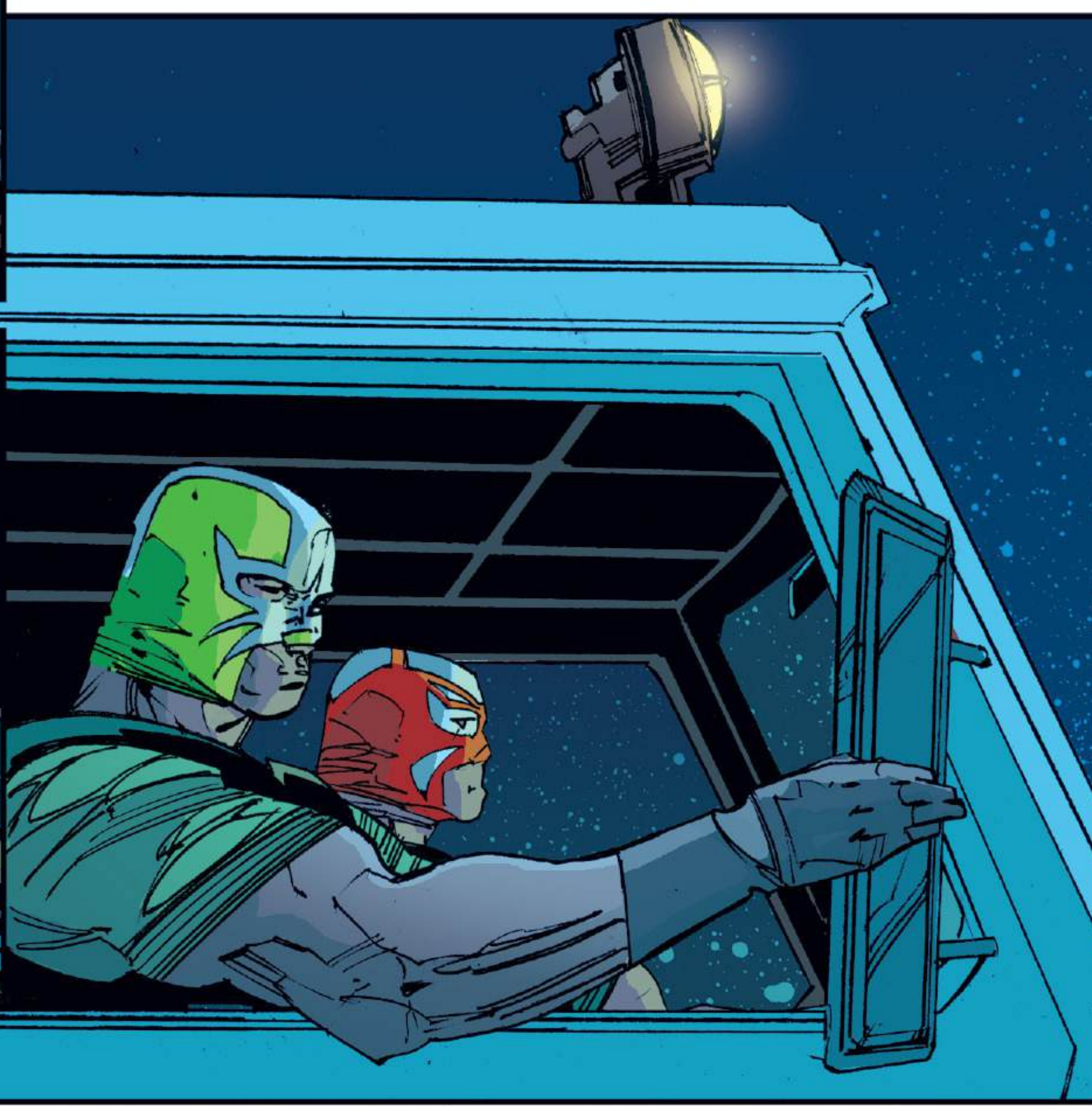


SHE'S MORE THAN GOOD LOOKS, BRO. SHE'S GOT FLAIR.

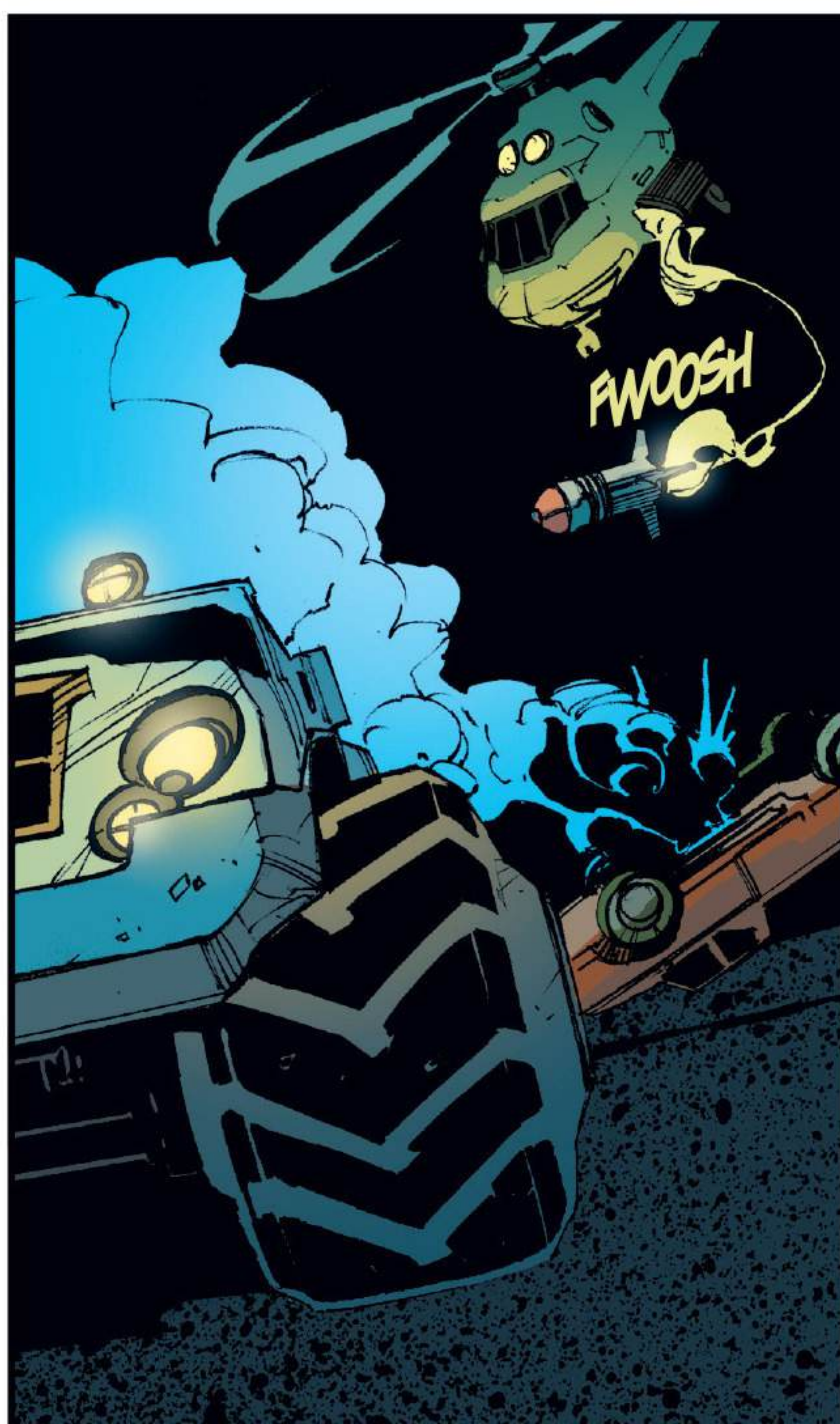
GLAD YOU AREN'T GETTING ATTACHED.

UM, BRO, YOU SEE THAT?

WHAT?



OH. THAT.





DAMN. THEY RUINED MY HUEY LEWIS BOX SET. I JUST GOT THAT. IT WAS A COLLECTOR'S ITEM.



NO OFFENSE, BRO--BUT IF I HAD TO LISTEN TO "HIP TO BE SQUARE" ONE MORE TIME, I'D HAVE TO SHOOT YOU.

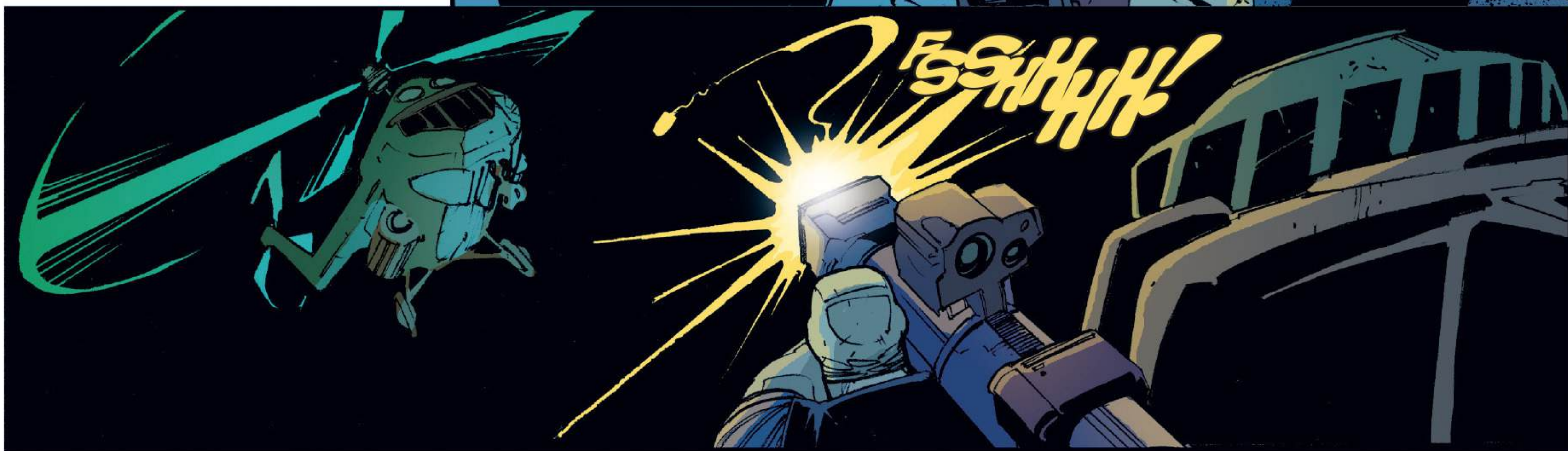


BAT-BAT-BAT-BAT-BAT-BAT-BAT-BAT!

YOU GOT NO TASTE IN MUSIC.

YEAH, I GOT NO TASTE IN MUSIC.

GOOD TO GO, BRO!



FSSHHH!





HOW'S YOUR
GIRLFRIEND
DOING?

BETTER
ONCE WE
GET HER
AWAY FROM
HERE.

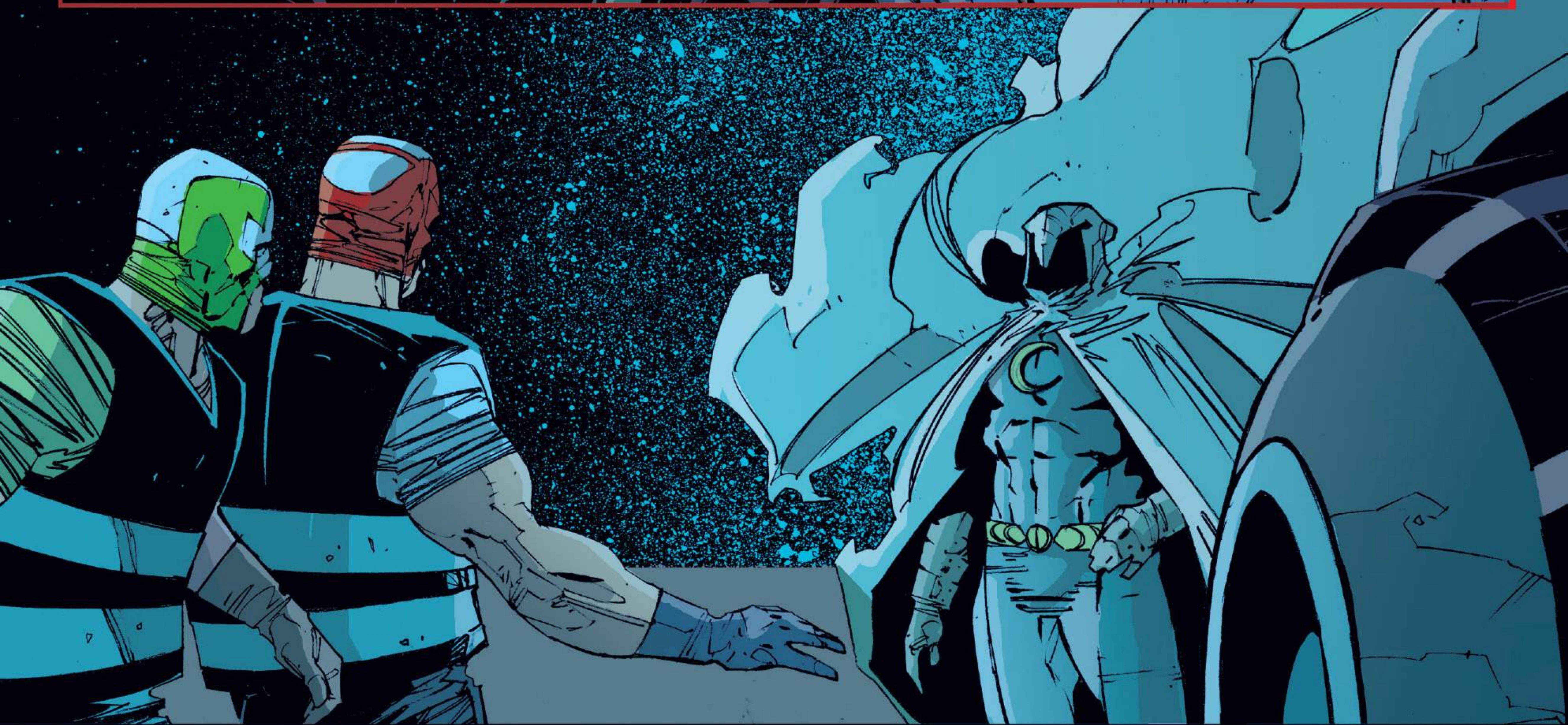


HEAD'S
KILLING ME.
YOU GOT
ANY ADVIL
ON YA?

ALEVE?
WHAT, FOR YOUR
CRAMPS?

ALEVE.

KEEP IT
UP, BRO, I'M
GONNA SMACK
YOU.



GO EASY,
BRO--WE
COME IN
PEACE.

I SAW
WHAT YOU
DID BACK
THERE. WITH
THE GIRL.

WHY?



HOW
ABOUT WE
TAKE THIS
CONVERSATION
ON THE
ROAD?



...SHOULDA
GUESSED YOU
WERE ONE OF THEM
SUPER HERO TYPES
FROM THE WAY YOU
THROW A PUNCH.
LIKE A MULE-
KICK, BRO.

WORD.
WHAT HAPPENED
YESTERDAY, AT THE
HOTEL--THAT WAS
STRICTLY BUSINESS,
Y'KNOW? WE GOT
NO GRIPE WITH
YOU.



OR
CARMEN.

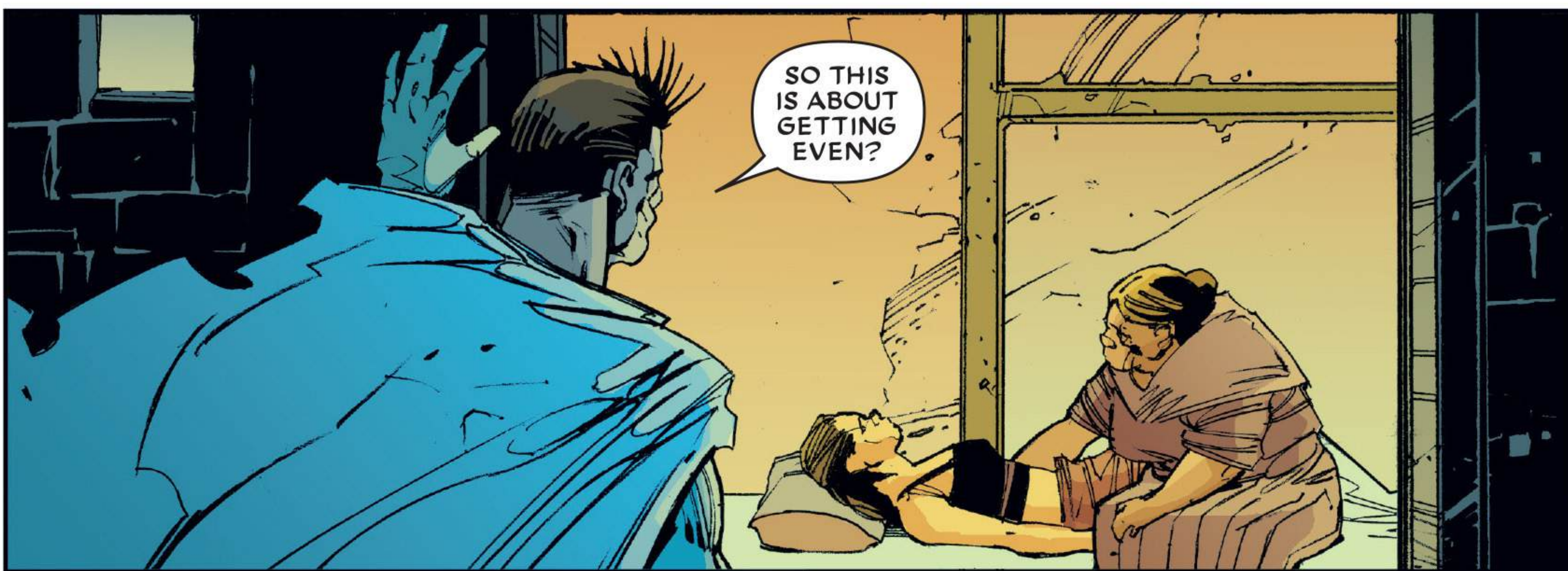


WHY
THE SUDDEN
CHANGE OF
HEART?

AFTER YOU TWO
FLEW THE COOP,
ALCANTARA...
WELL...

LET'S
JUST SAY HE
DISRESPECTED
US.

PUT A
REAL BAD
TASTE IN OUR
MOUTHS.



SO THIS
IS ABOUT
GETTING
EVEN?



UH.



WHAT MY
BROTHER
MEANS TO SAY IS,
THIS IS **PERSONAL**
NOW. RIGHT,
GUSTAVO?

YEAH.
PERSONAL.
RIGHT.

THERE
IS MORE TO
LIFE THAN
BUSINESS.

RIGHT.
MORE THAN
BUSINESS.



WE SHOULD BE FINE HERE FOR A WHILE. THERE'S A BUILDING OUT BACK YOU CAN STAY IN FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED.

THE GIRL'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT. WE NEED TO GET HER OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

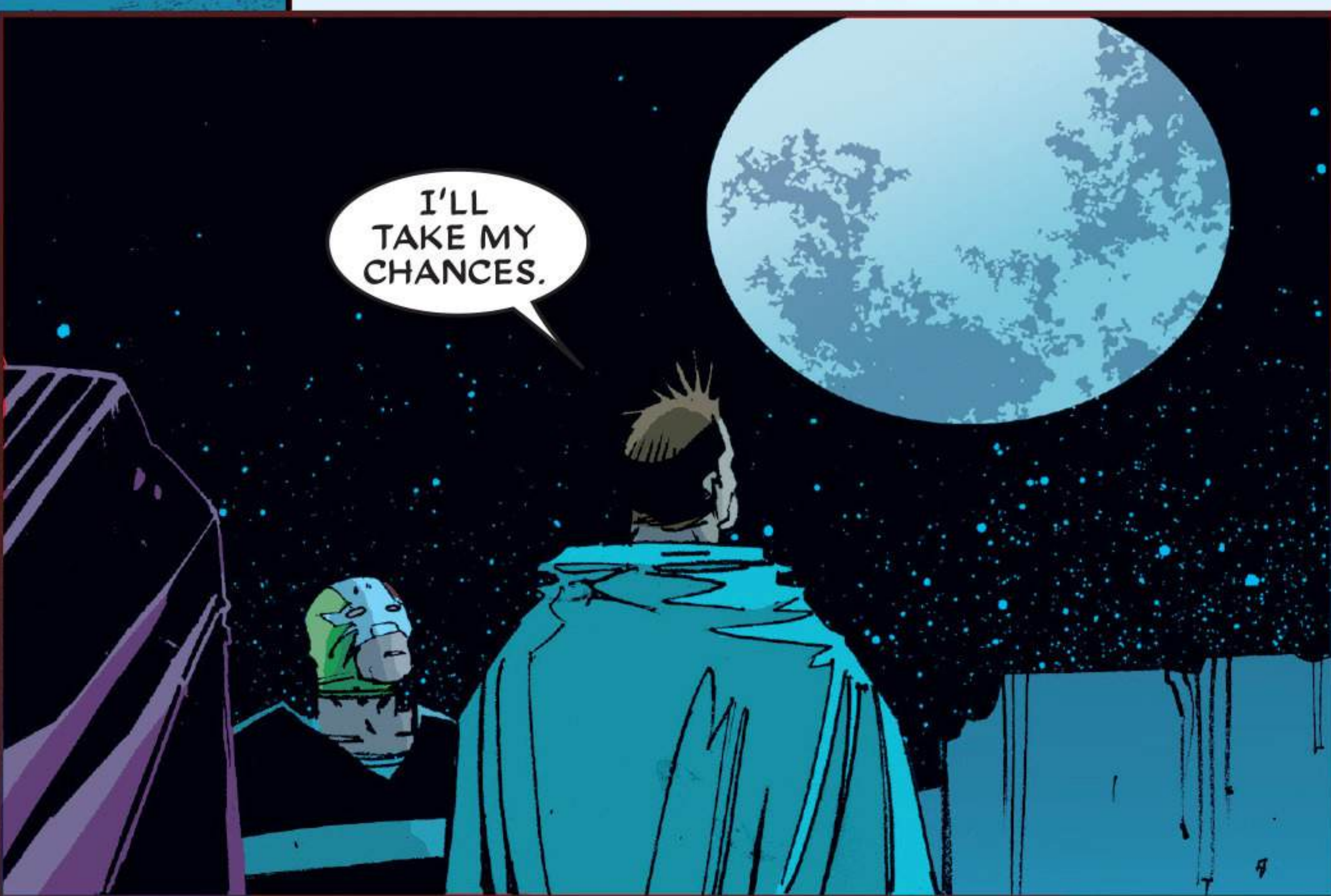
HOW YOU WANNA PROCEED, HERO?



FOR NOW, KEEP AN EYE ON HER. SHE'S BEEN PRETTY BANGED UP. YOU WANNA HELP-- THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN DO.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? ALCANTARA'S GOT AN ARMY. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO--GO IN WITH A BOMB STRAPPED TO YOUR CHEST?

I'LL TELL YOU THIS, BRO: YOU AIN'T COMING BACK ALIVE. THEY GONNA PUT YOU IN A BOX.



I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.



CHECK IT OUT. OUR FRIEND HERE WANTS US TO STAY PUT WHILE HE GOES AFTER ALCANTARA.

YOU SURE? NO BACKUP?

I'M GOOD.

WELL, ALRIGHT THEN. LIVE FAST AND LOOK GOOD.



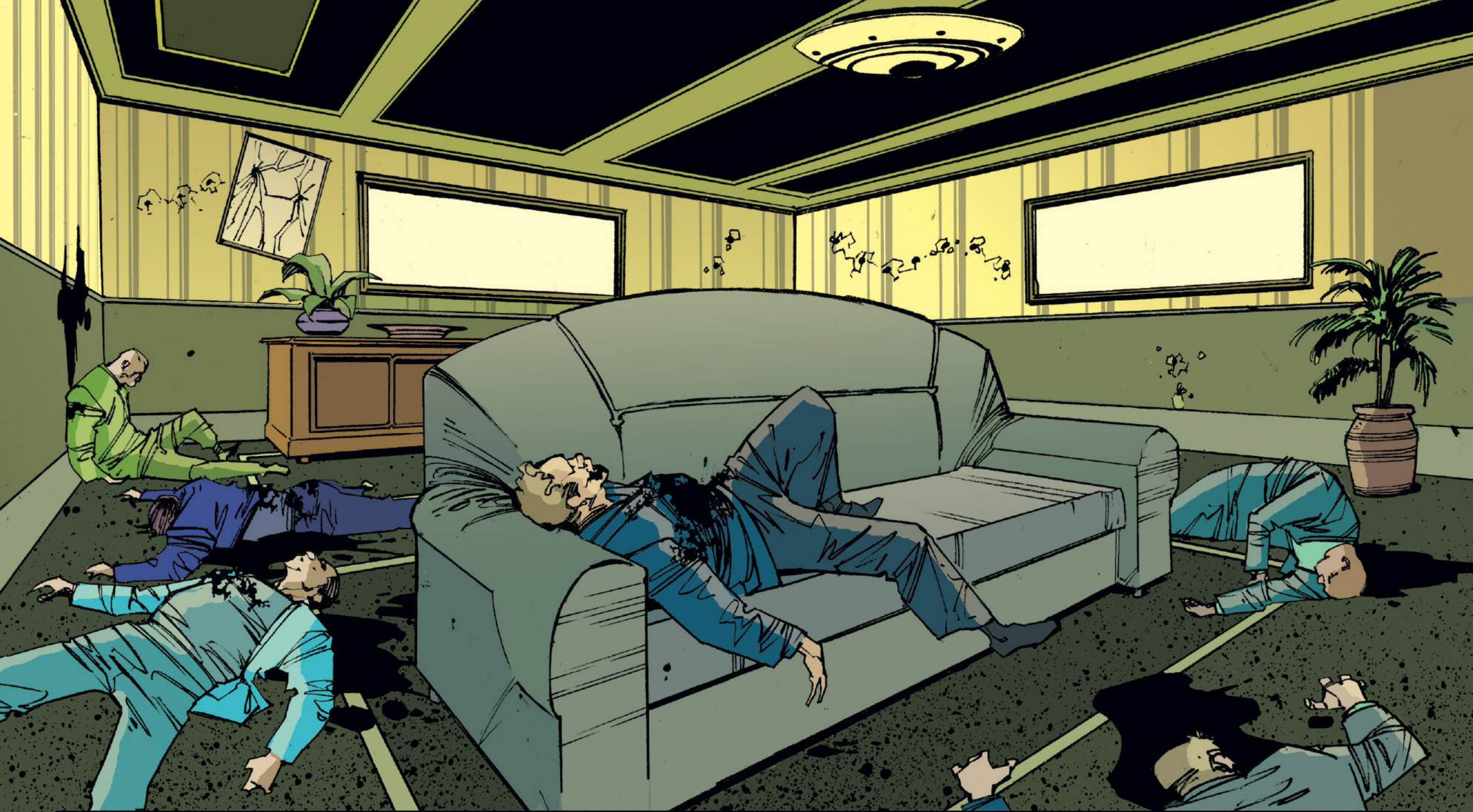
THAT'S A LONELY ROAD, BRO. BUT IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANNA ROLL, SO BE IT.

ONE THING, GUS: SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THE GIRL-- SHE TURNS UP DEAD ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD-- ANYTHING, I'M COMING FOR YOU. I'LL MAKE IT MY MISSION: HUNTING YOU AND YOUR BROTHER DOWN.

YOU GOT ME?



BRO.





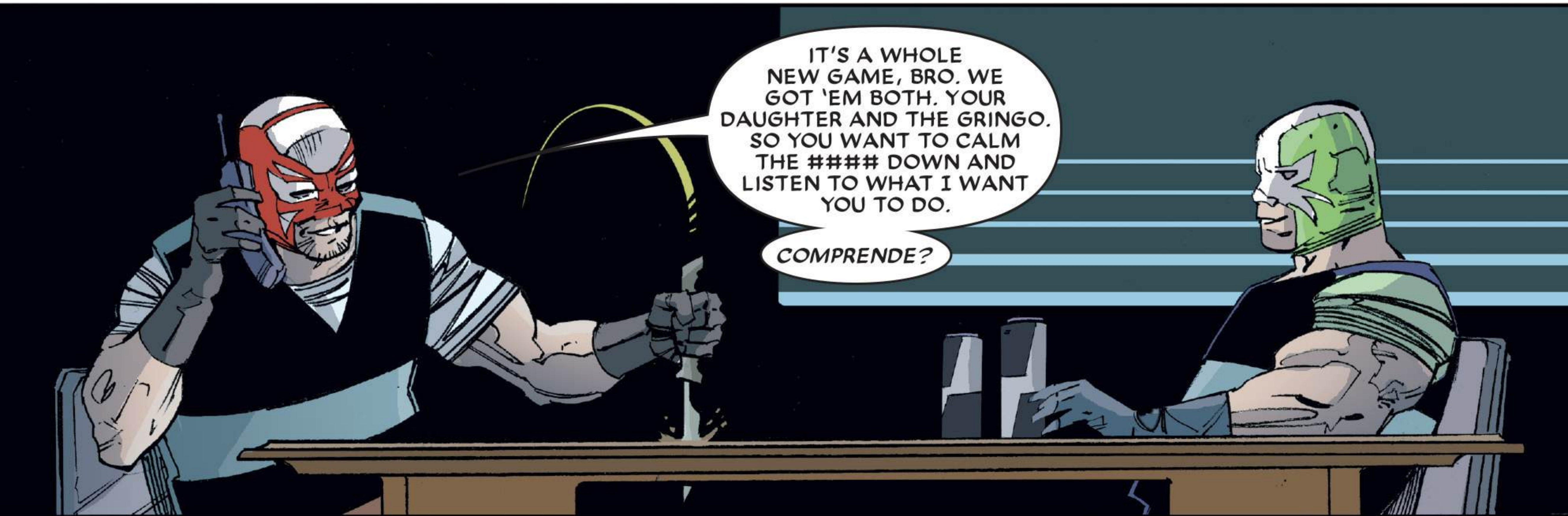
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



I WANT A
LOT OF THINGS,
AMIGO: A NEW BIKE, LOWER
CHOLESTEROL. BUT WE'RE
GONNA START OFF WITH
A LOT OF MONEY. SAY, SIX
TIMES WHAT WE TALKED
ABOUT.



DO YOU
KNOW **WHO**
YOU'RE #####
WITH!? DO YOU HAVE
A DEATH WISH?
BECAUSE--



IT'S A WHOLE
NEW GAME, BRO. WE
GOT 'EM BOTH. YOUR
DAUGHTER AND THE GRINGO.
SO YOU WANT TO CALM
THE ##### DOWN AND
LISTEN TO WHAT I WANT
YOU TO DO.

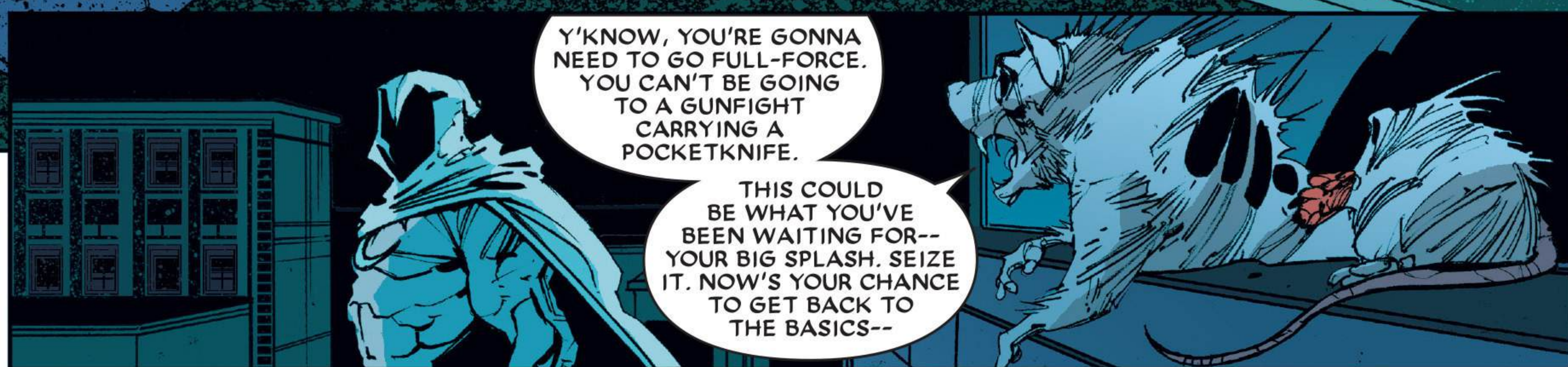
COMPRENDE?



YO
COMPRENDO.



LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S LEAVING IN A HURRY.

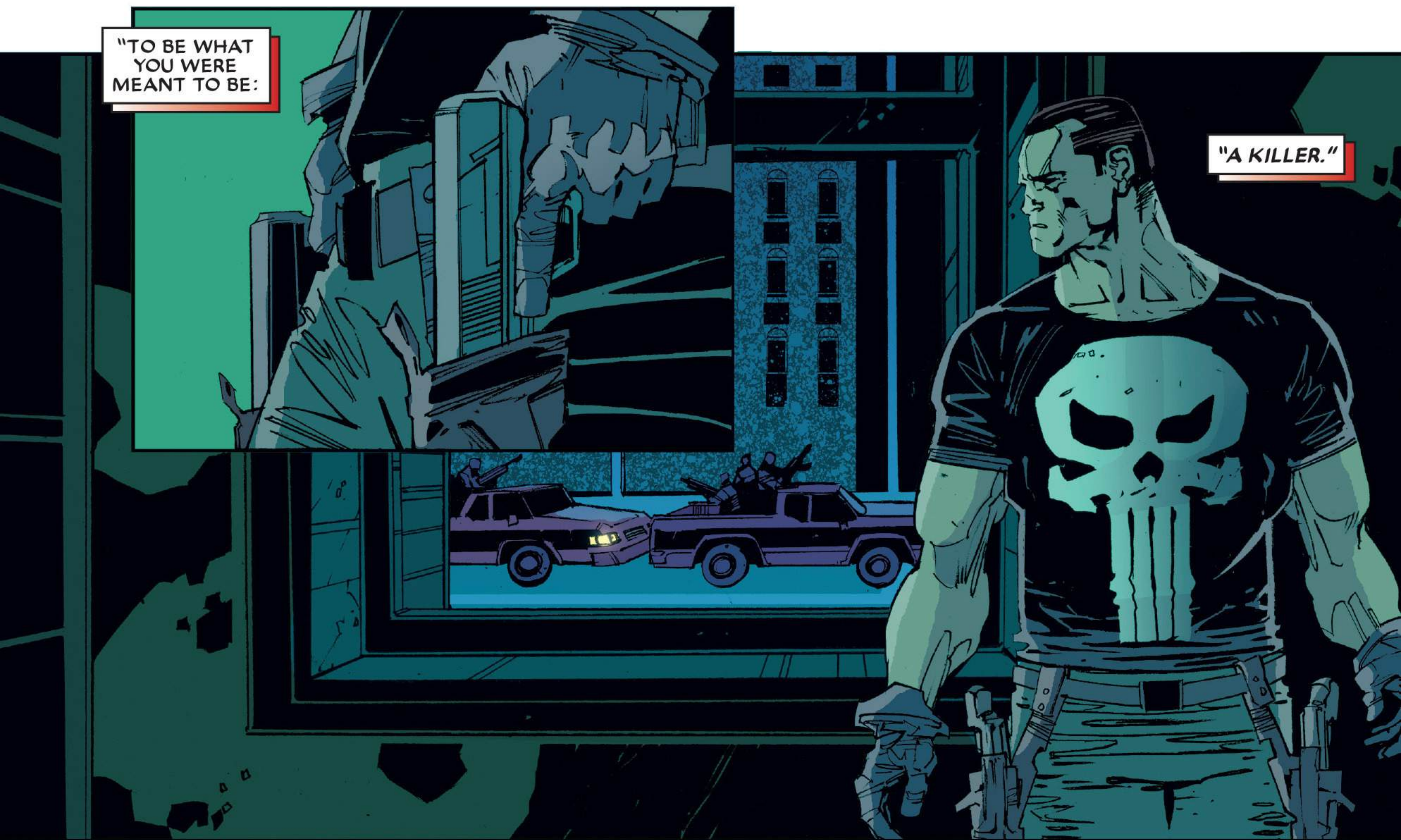


Y'KNOW, YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO GO FULL-FORCE. YOU CAN'T BE GOING TO A GUNFIGHT CARRYING A POCKETKNIFE.

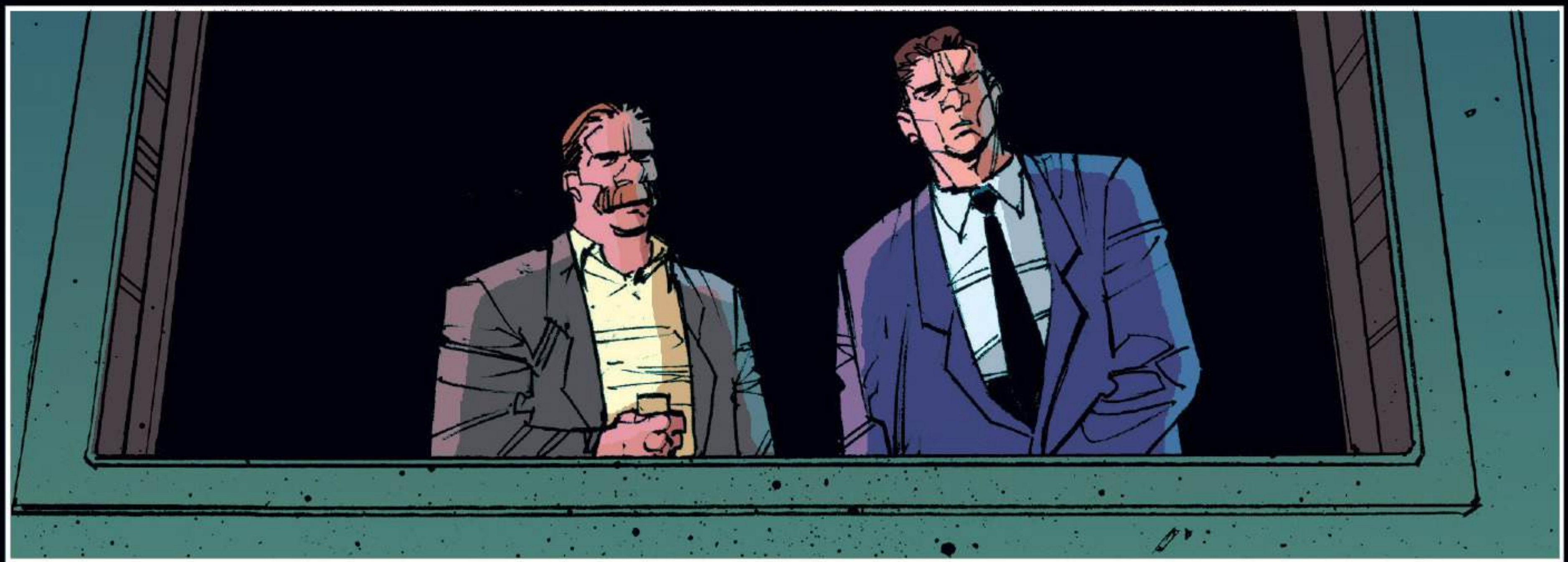
THIS COULD BE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR-- YOUR BIG SPLASH. SEIZE IT. NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET BACK TO THE BASICS--

"TO BE WHAT YOU WERE MEANT TO BE:"

"A KILLER."



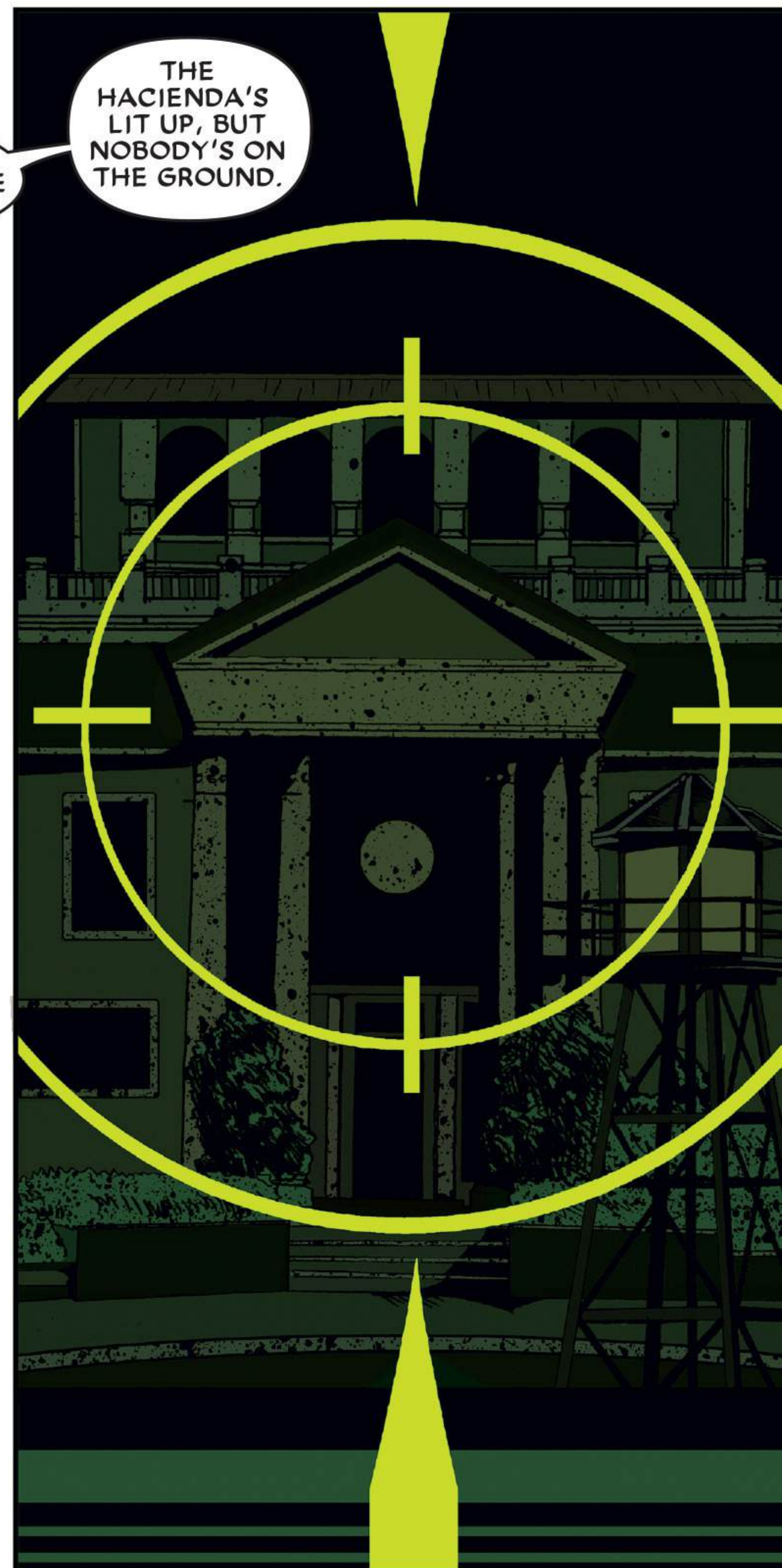
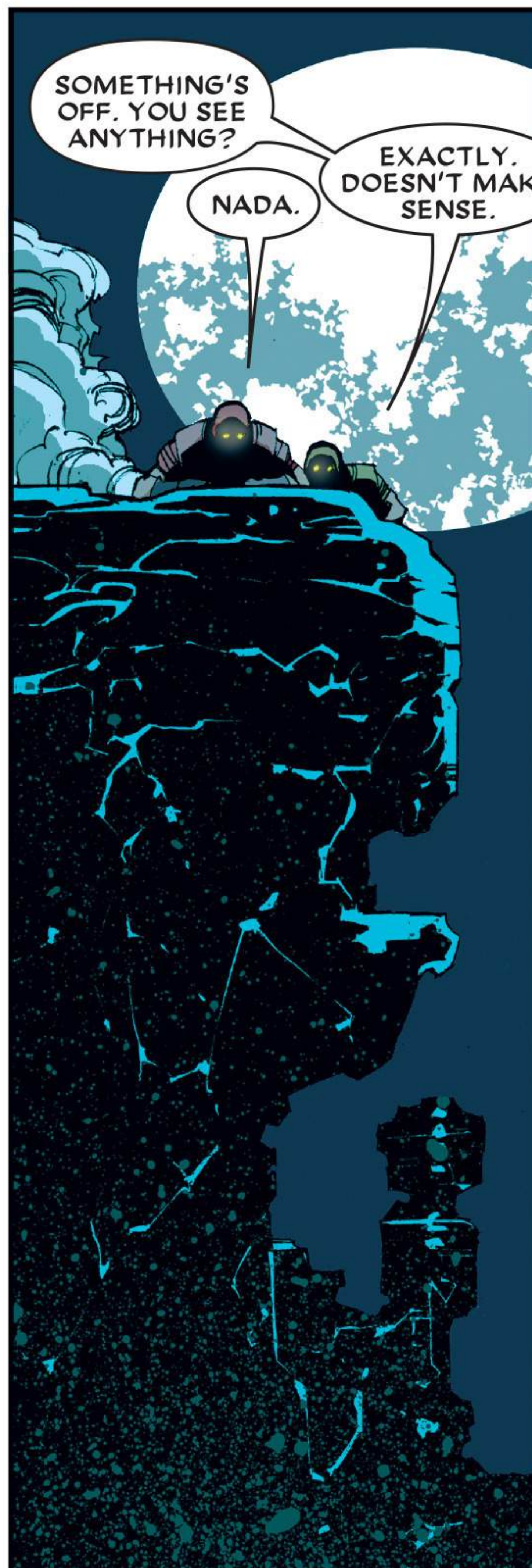


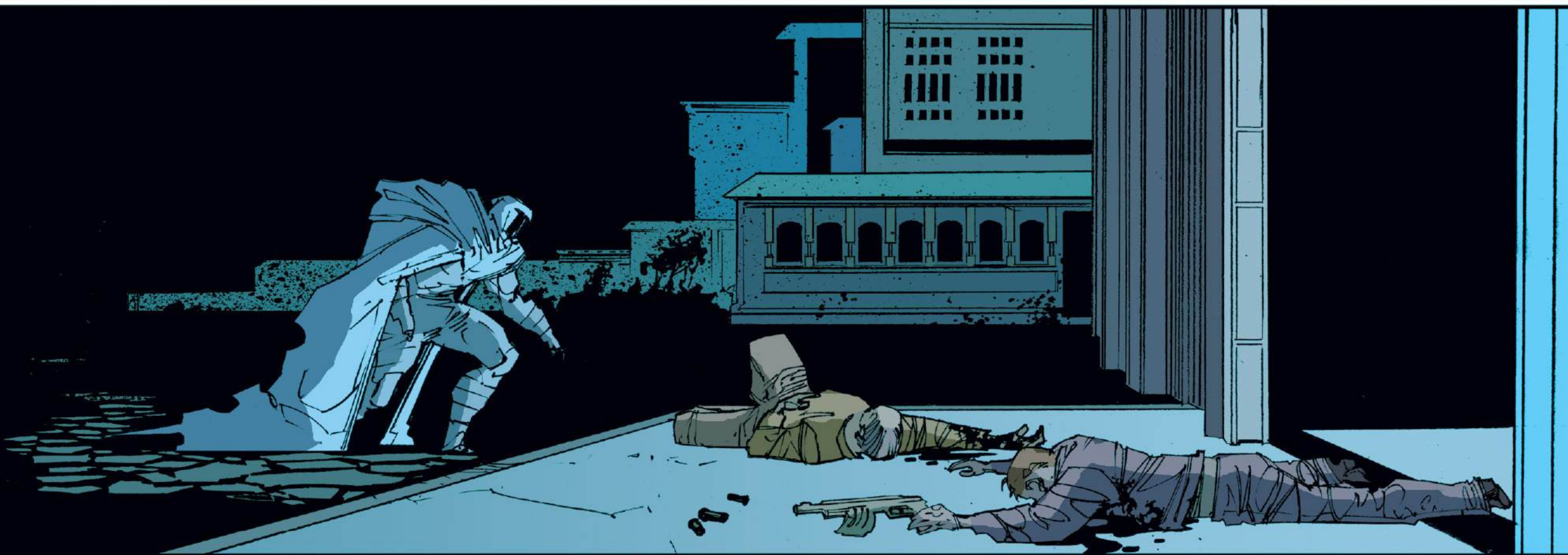


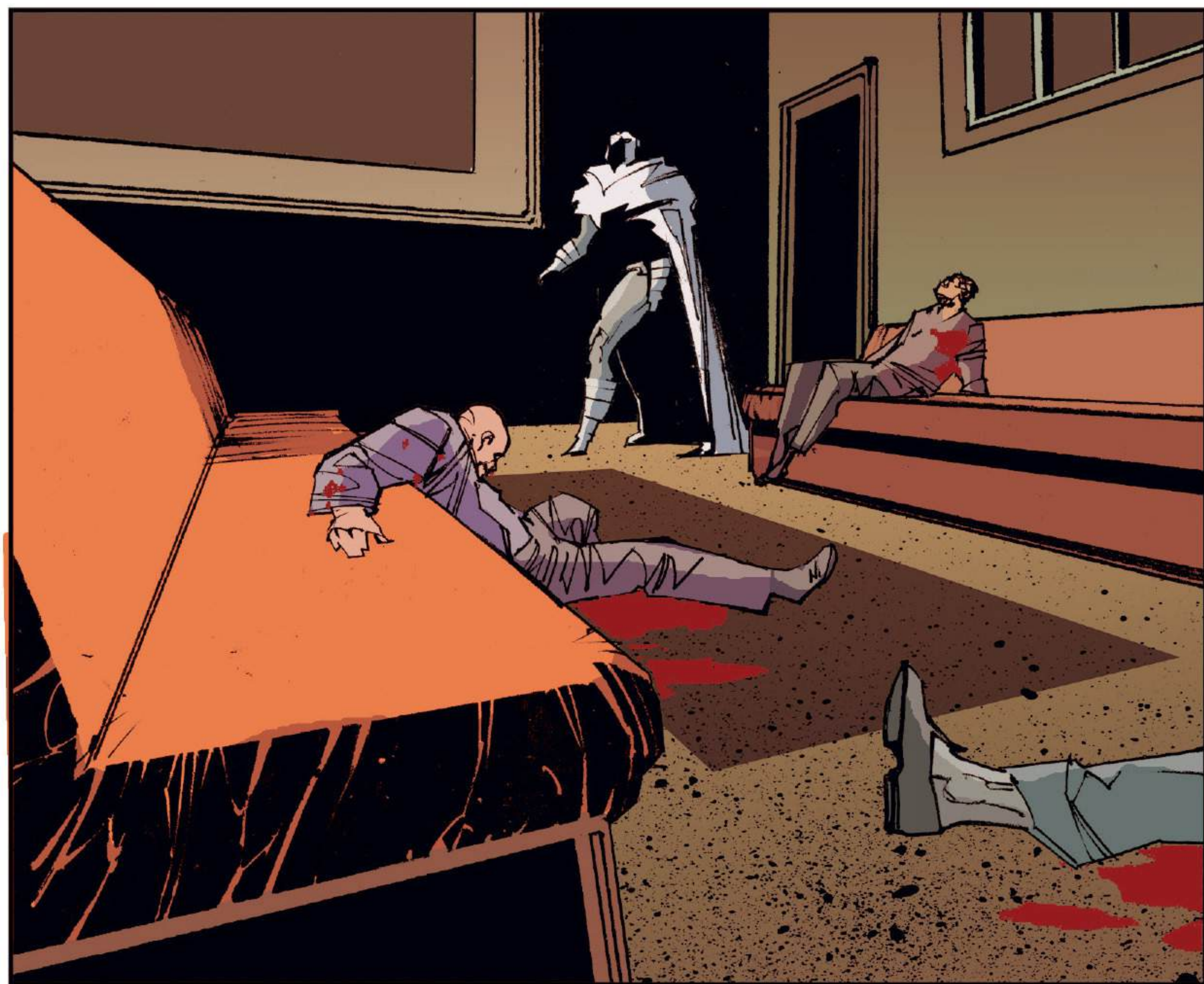
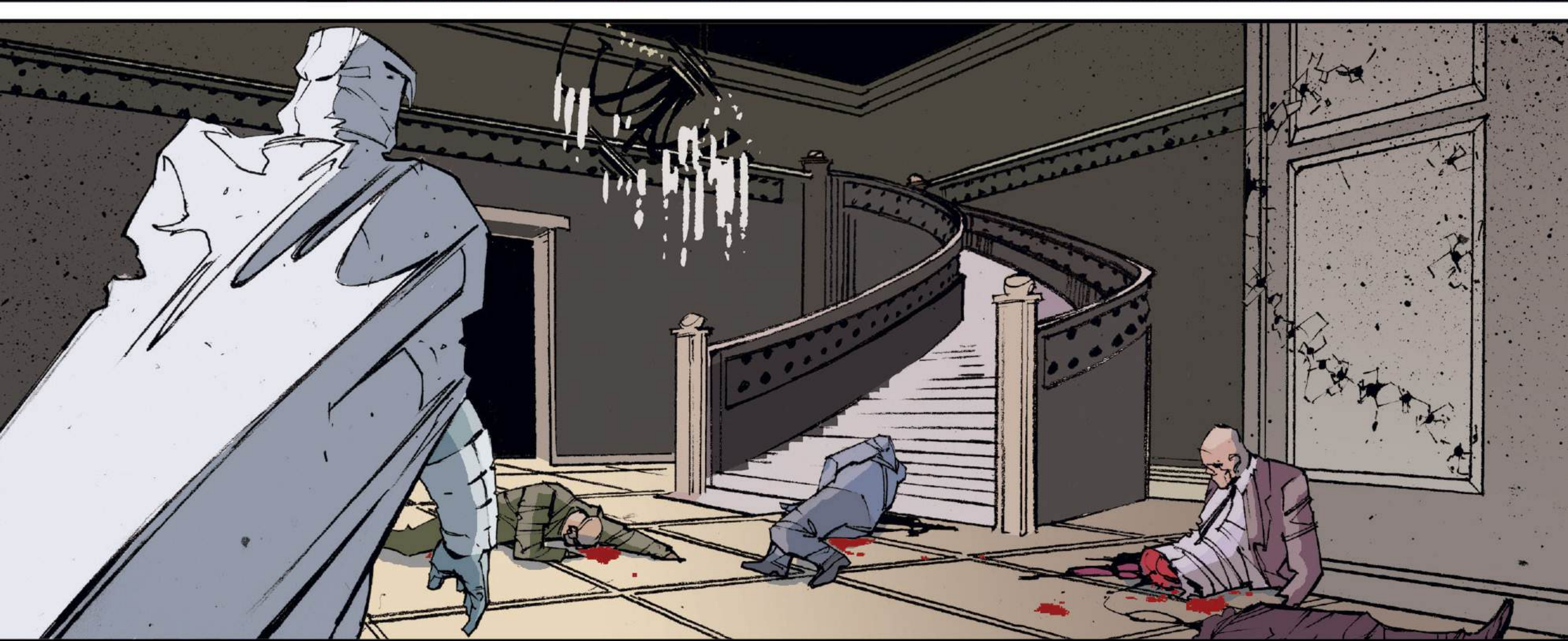
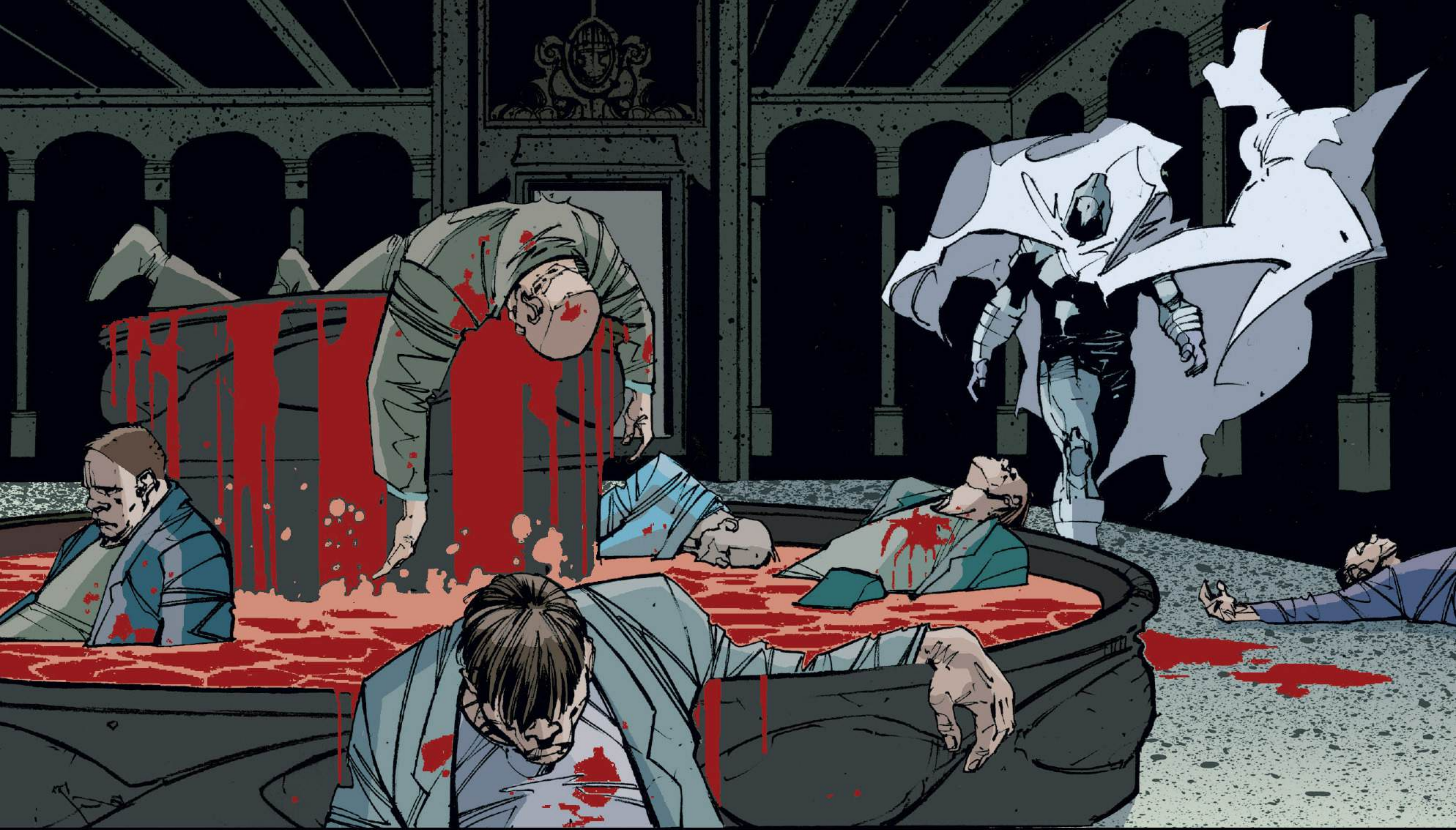
MOON KNIGHT[®]



BENSON
PALO
LOUGHRIDGE

















BRAT-TA-TA-TA-TAT

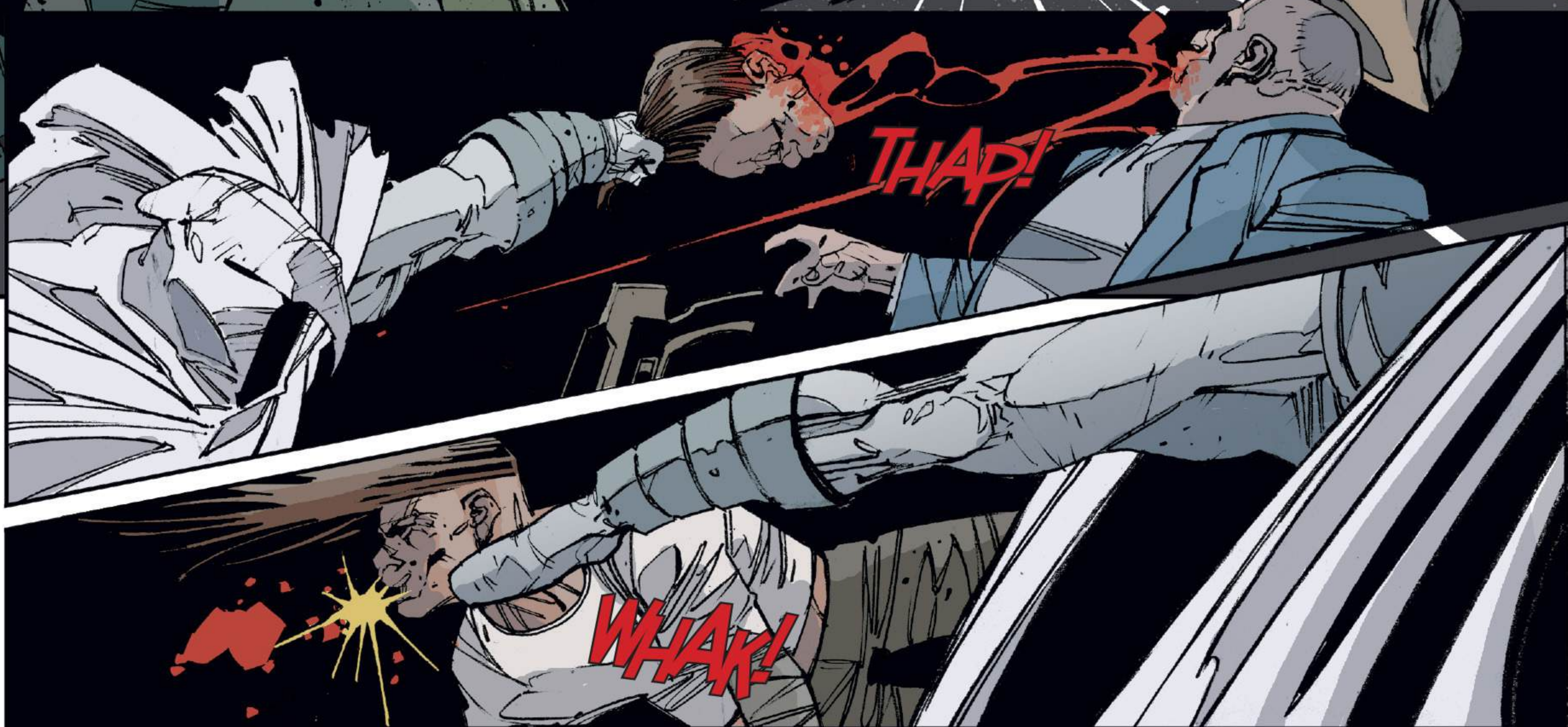


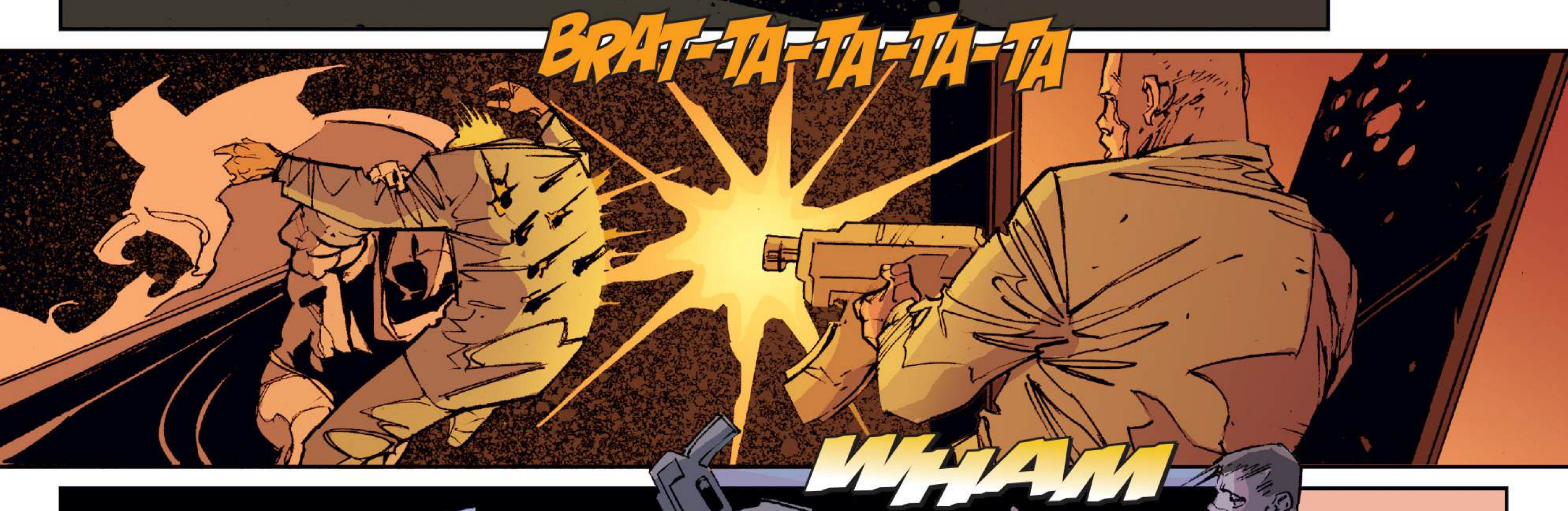
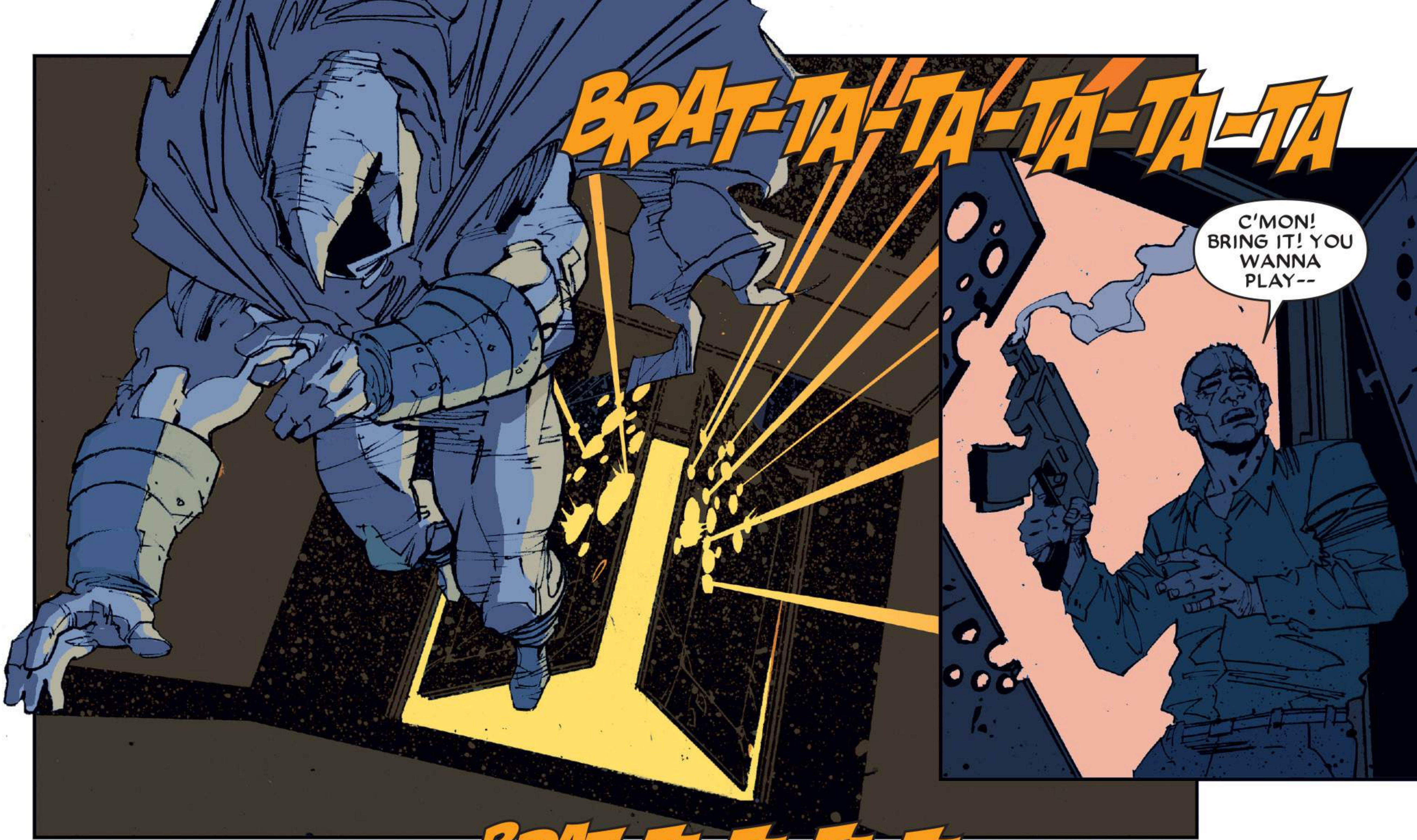
«MAYBE HE'S GONE.»

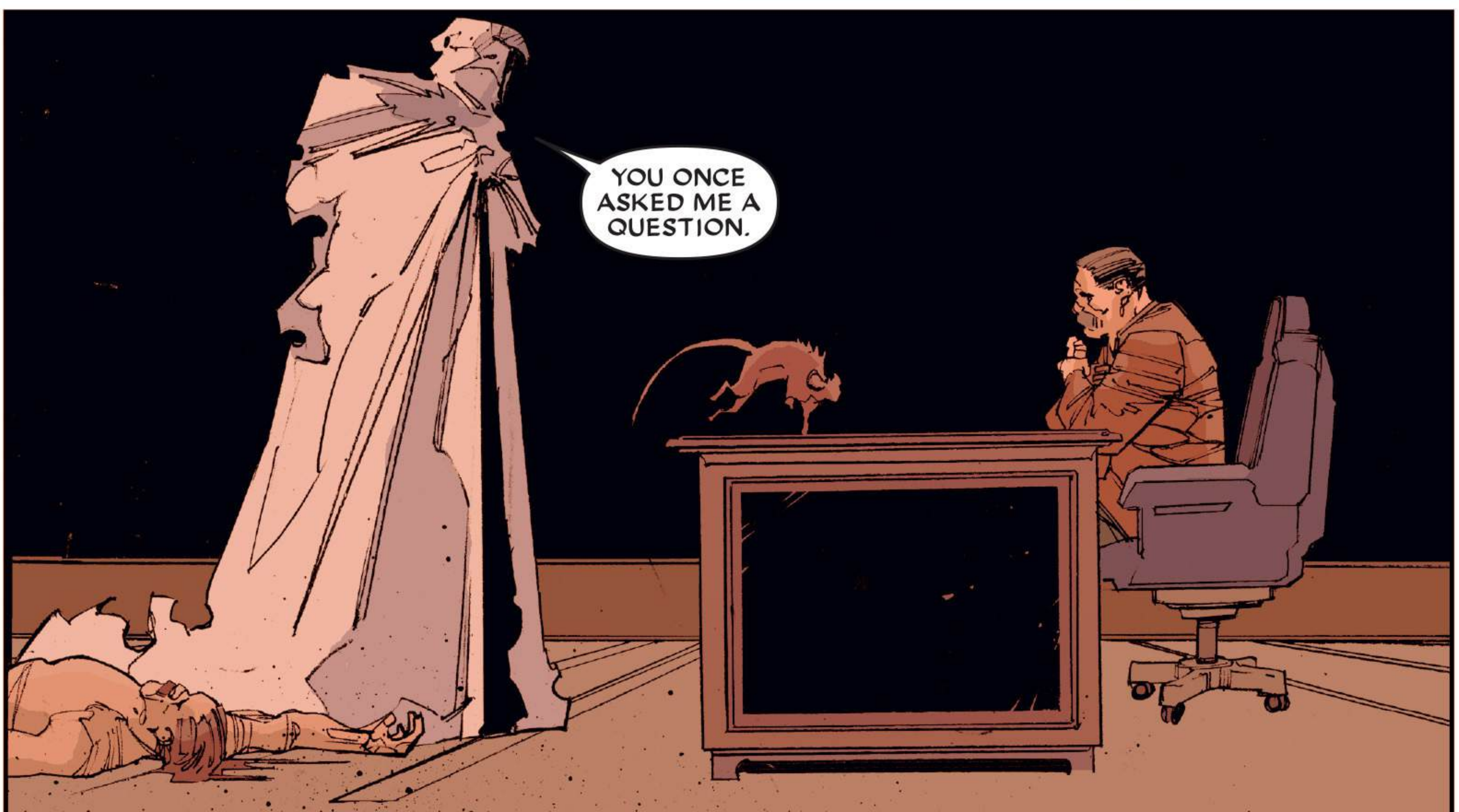
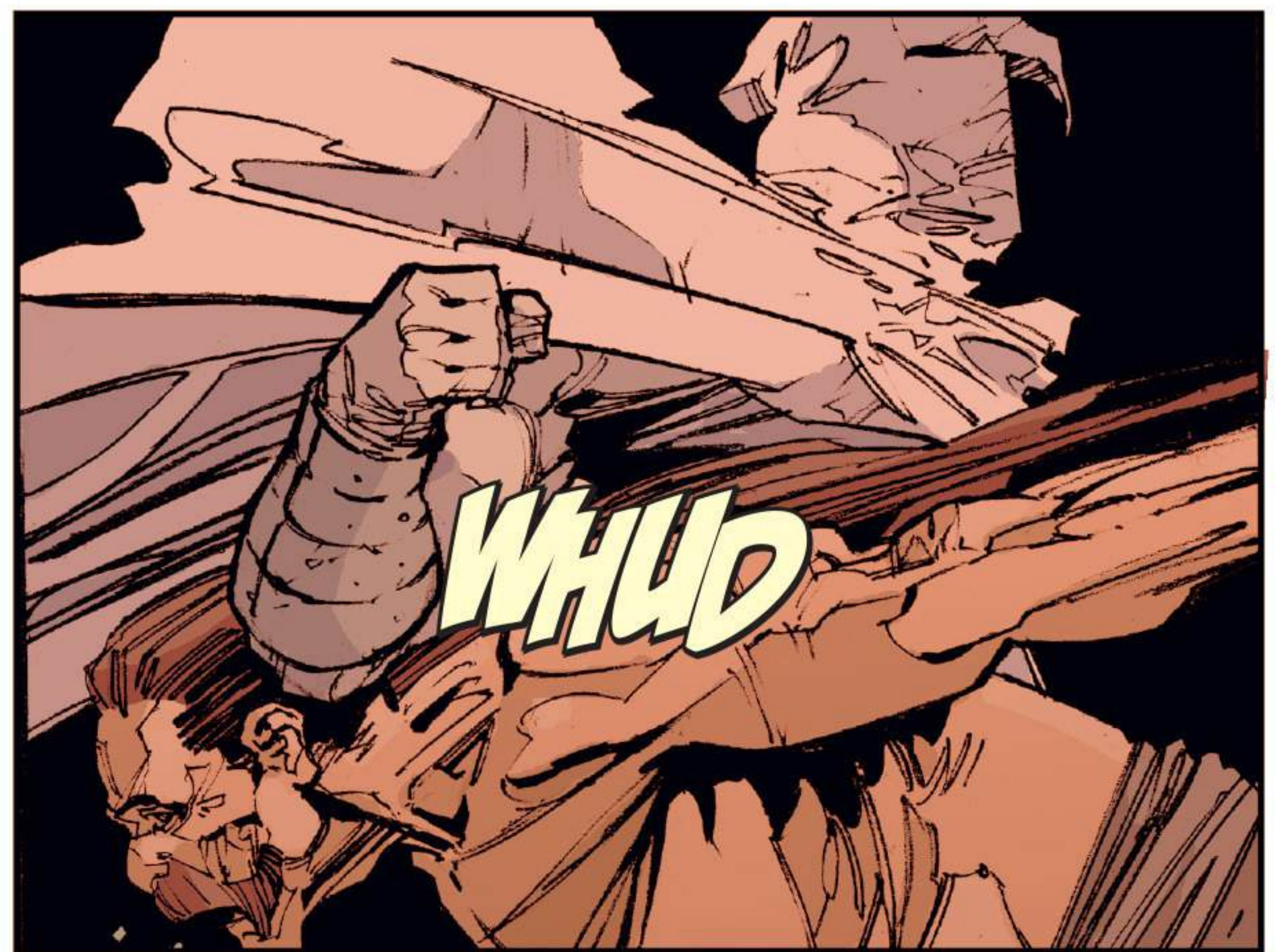
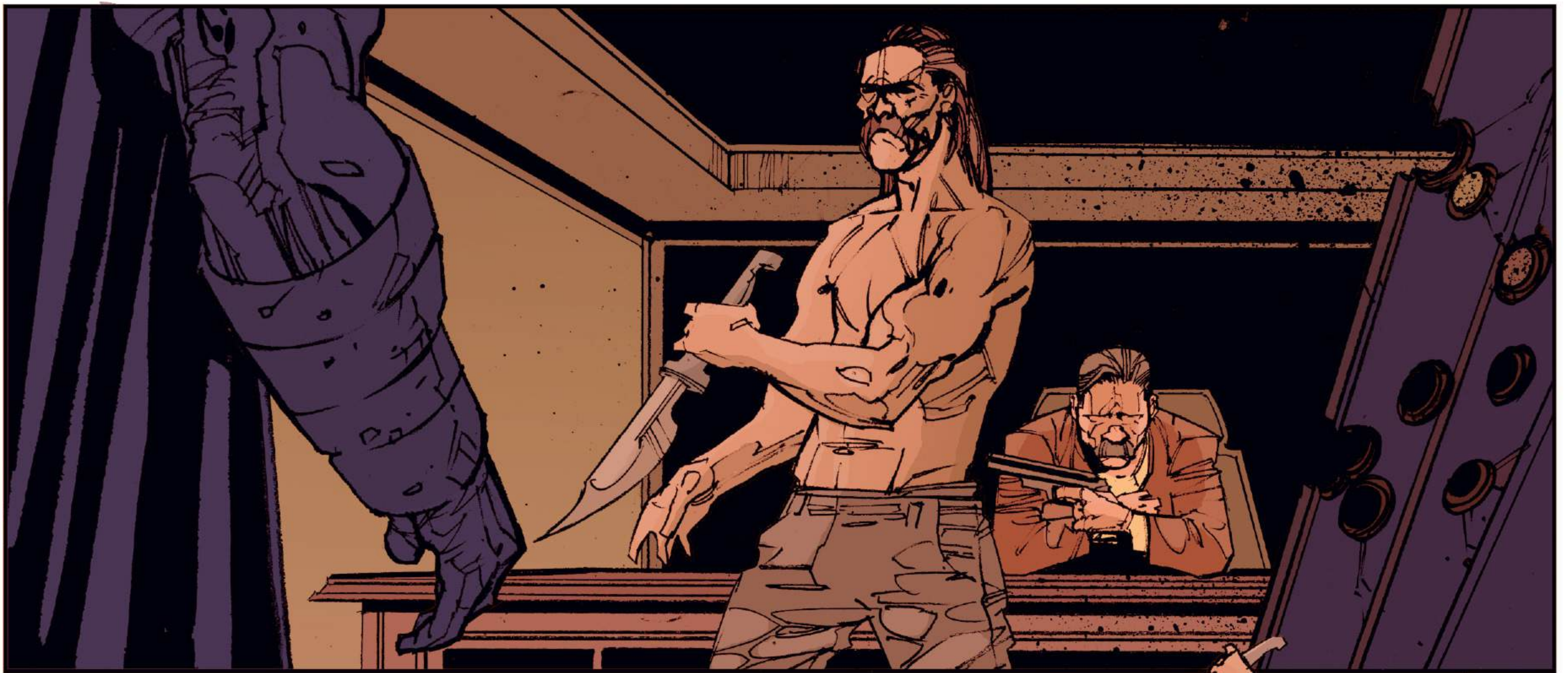
«YOU WANNA TELL THE BOSS, GO AHEAD.»



MIGUEL!









W-WHAT?

YOU
ASKED
ME--

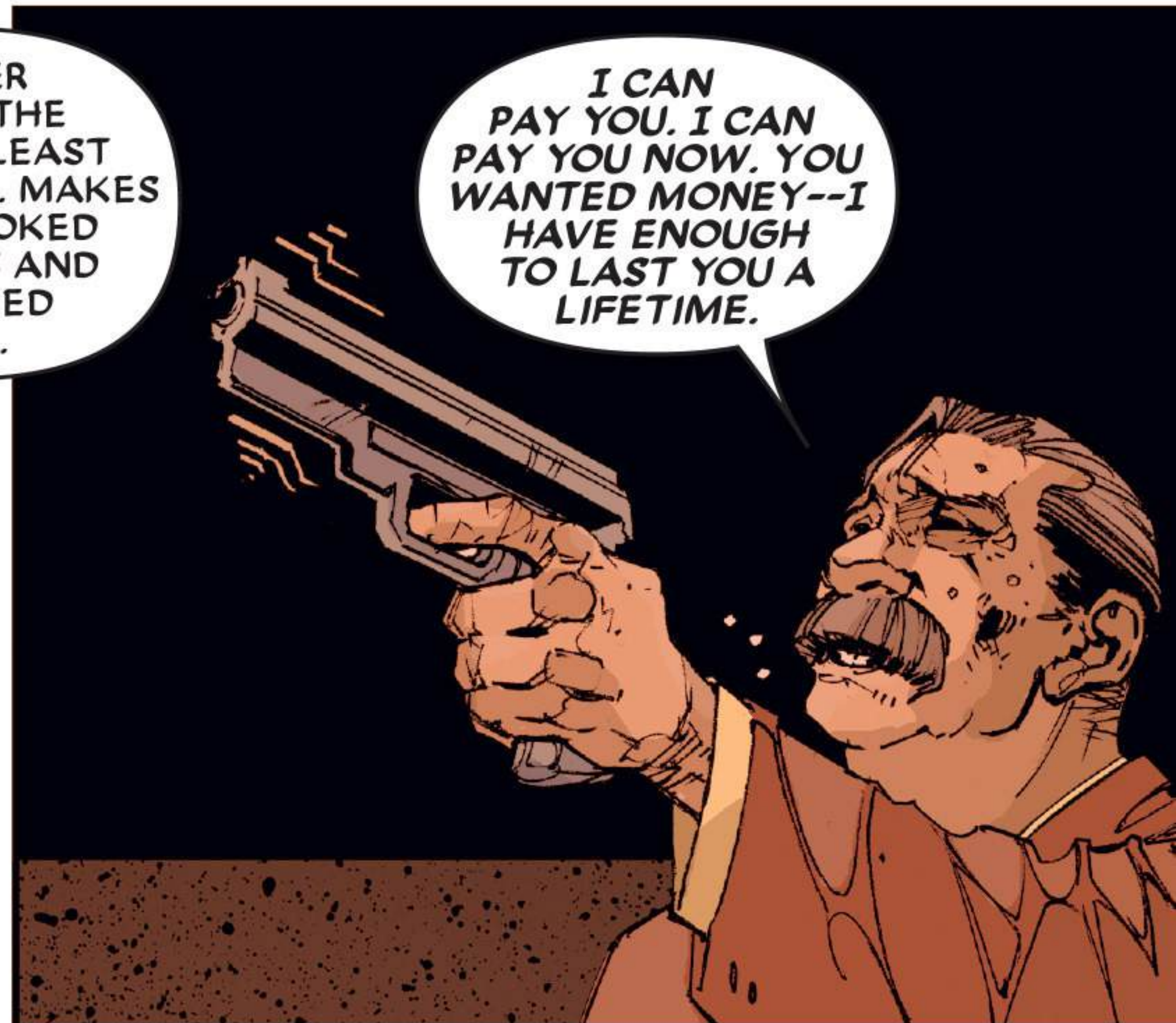
HOW
COULD SUCH
BEAUTIFUL LAND
BE RULED BY
SUCH EVIL?



SIMPLE:

LOOK AT
THIS GUY! SHAKING
LIKE A LEAF. TAKE
AWAY THAT GUN
AND **CHOKE** HIM
WITH IT!

WATER
TAKES THE
PATH OF LEAST
RESISTANCE. MAKES
FOR CROOKED
STREAMS AND
CROOKED
MEN.



I CAN
PAY YOU. I CAN
PAY YOU NOW. YOU
WANTED MONEY--I
HAVE ENOUGH
TO LAST YOU A
LIFETIME.



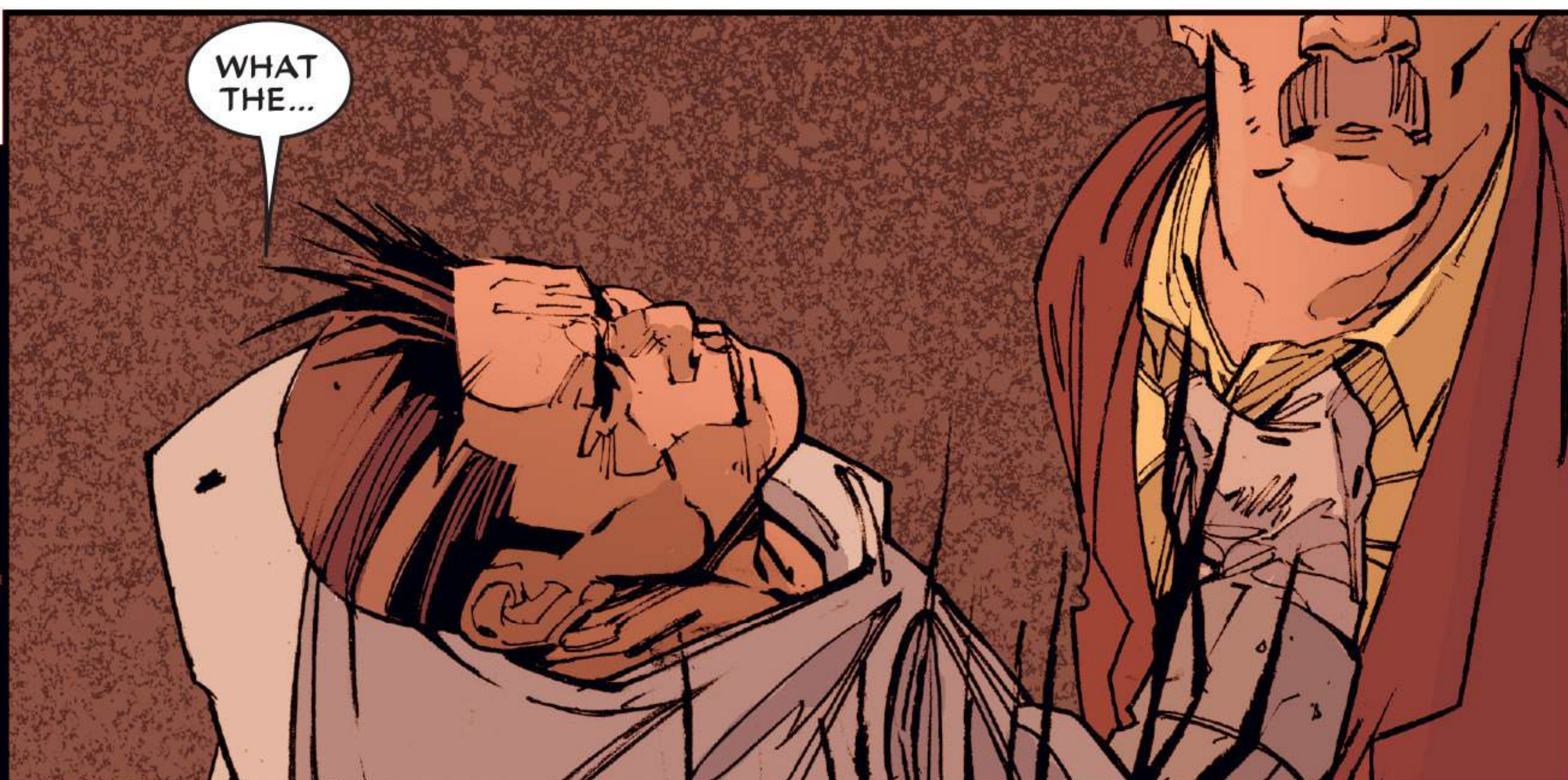
HOW THE
DO
YOU STAND
YOURSELF?

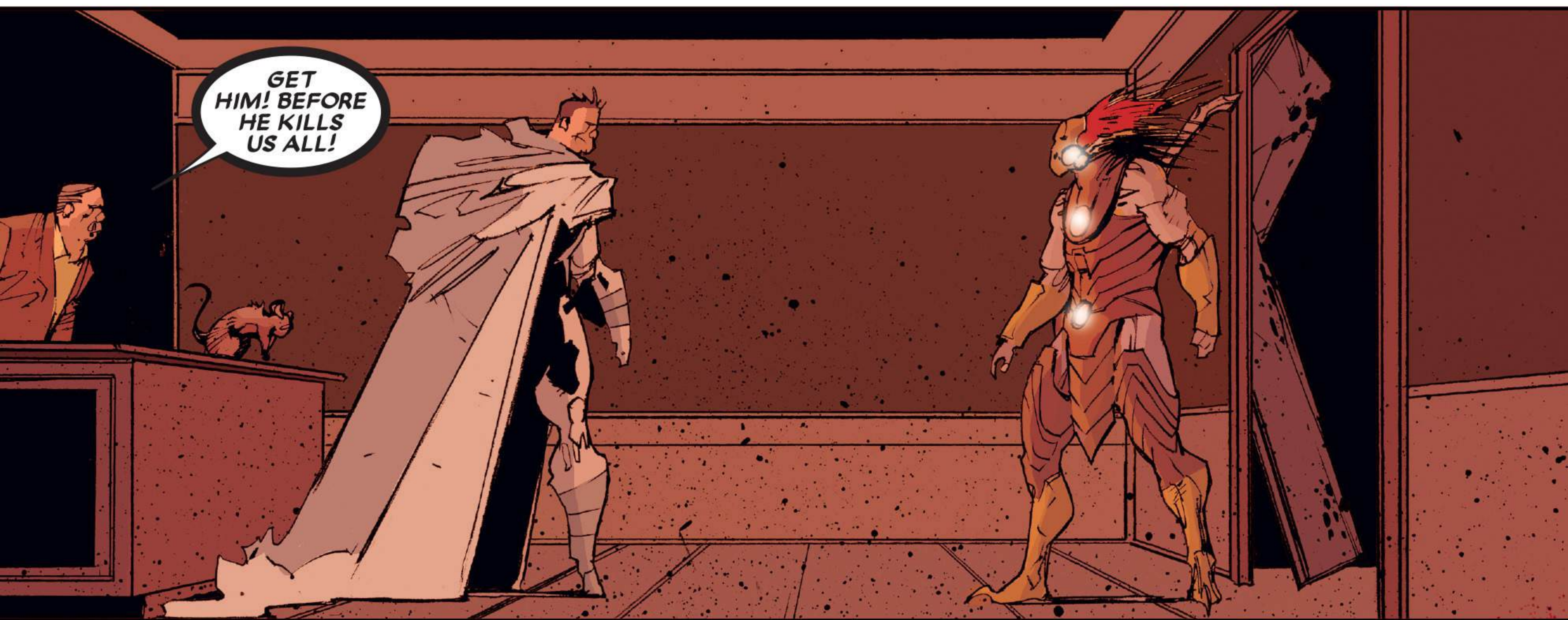
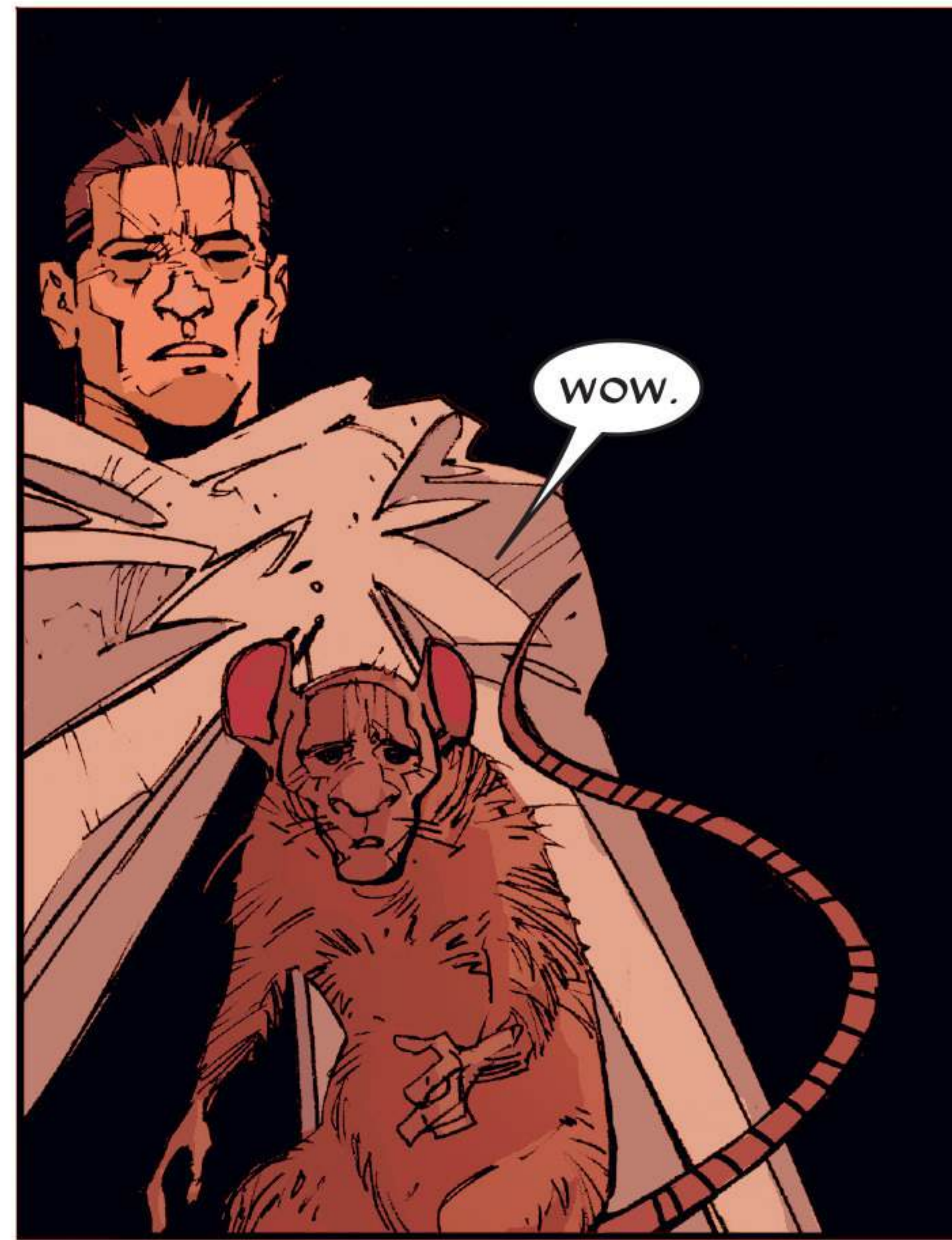


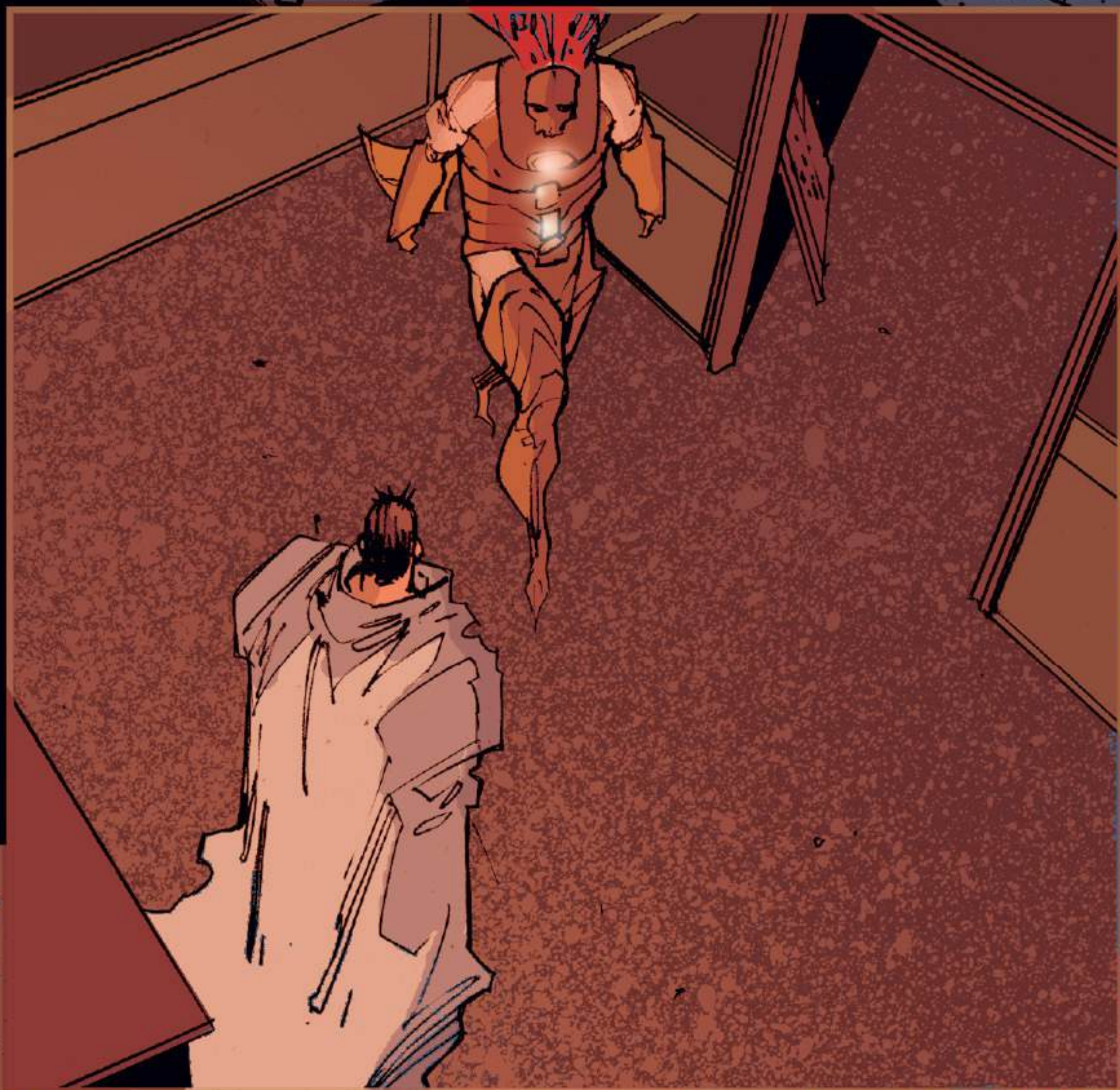
YES! YES!
RUN WITH IT!
TEAR OUT HIS
THROAT!



NO...
NOT HIM...
KEEP IT
AWAY...













IT'S BEEN REAL, BRO.

YEAH.

ONCE YOU GET SETTLED, FACEBOOK ME.

YEAH, WHATEVER THAT MEANS.



DIFFERENT RECEPTION THAN WHEN WE FIRST MET.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING-- EVERYTHING.

YOU JUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS, BRO. DON'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT.



I SUCK AT GOODBYES--

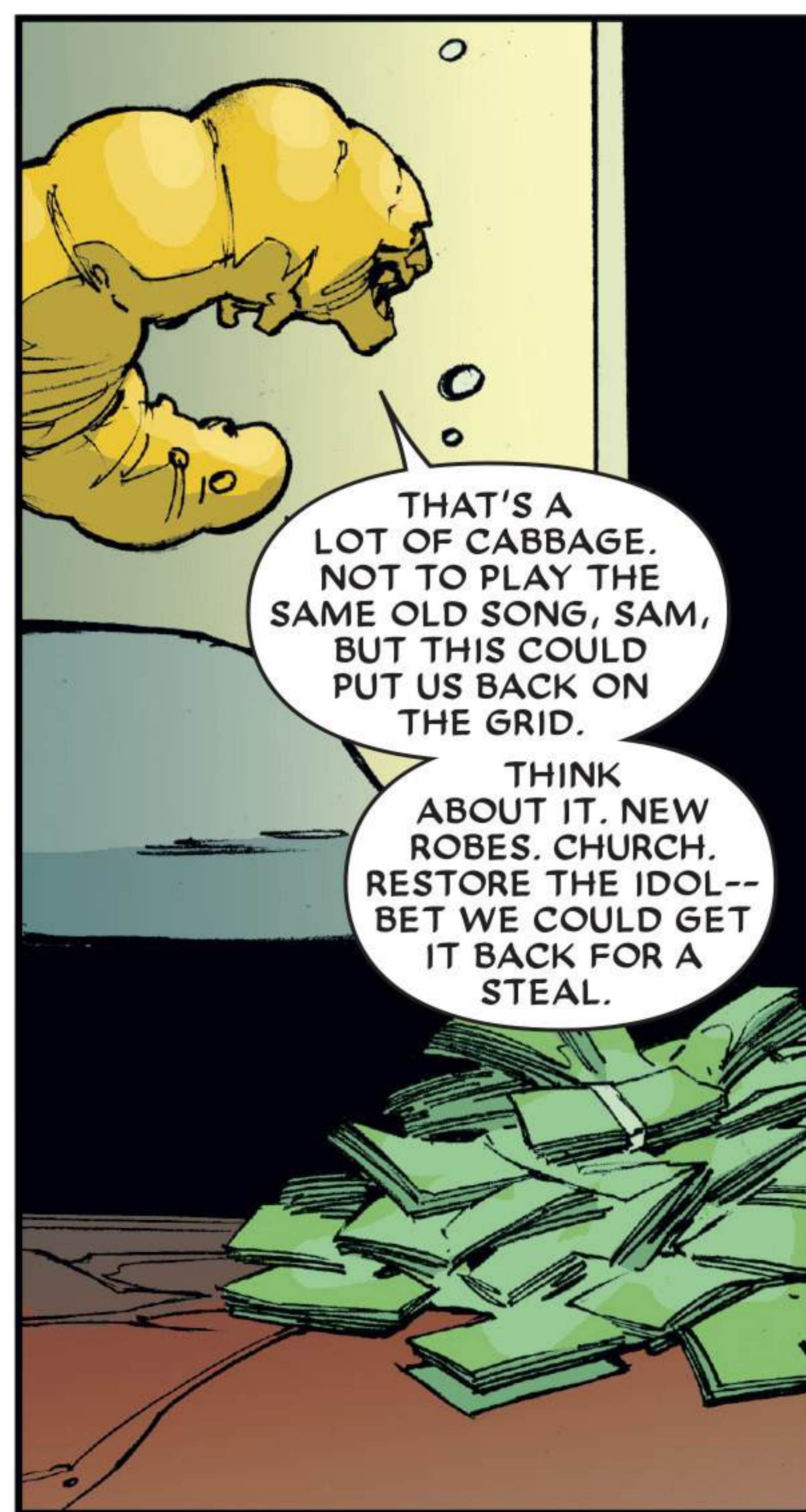
--SO I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH A LITTLE PARTING GIFT.

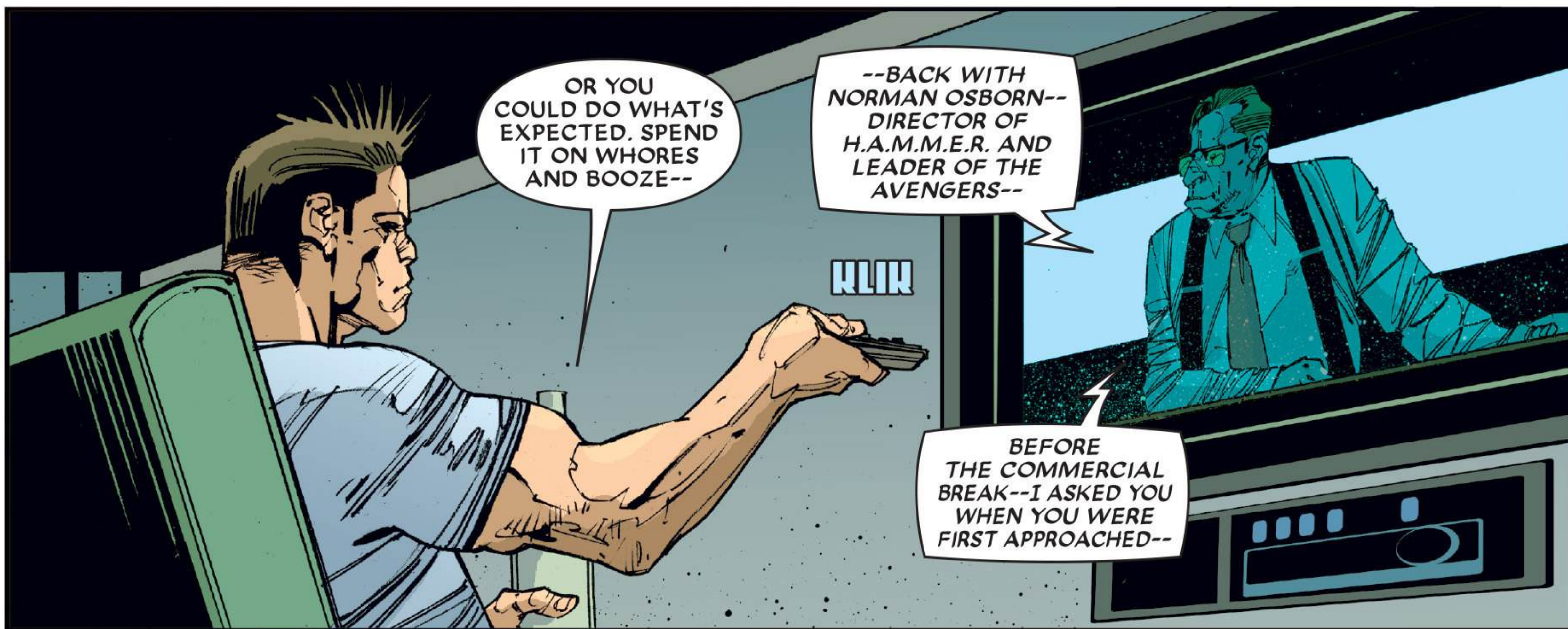


COUGH-- WHIPPED.

BRO. DON'T START.







OR YOU COULD DO WHAT'S EXPECTED. SPEND IT ON WHORES AND BOOZE--

--BACK WITH NORMAN OSBORN-- DIRECTOR OF H.A.M.M.E.R. AND LEADER OF THE AVENGERS--

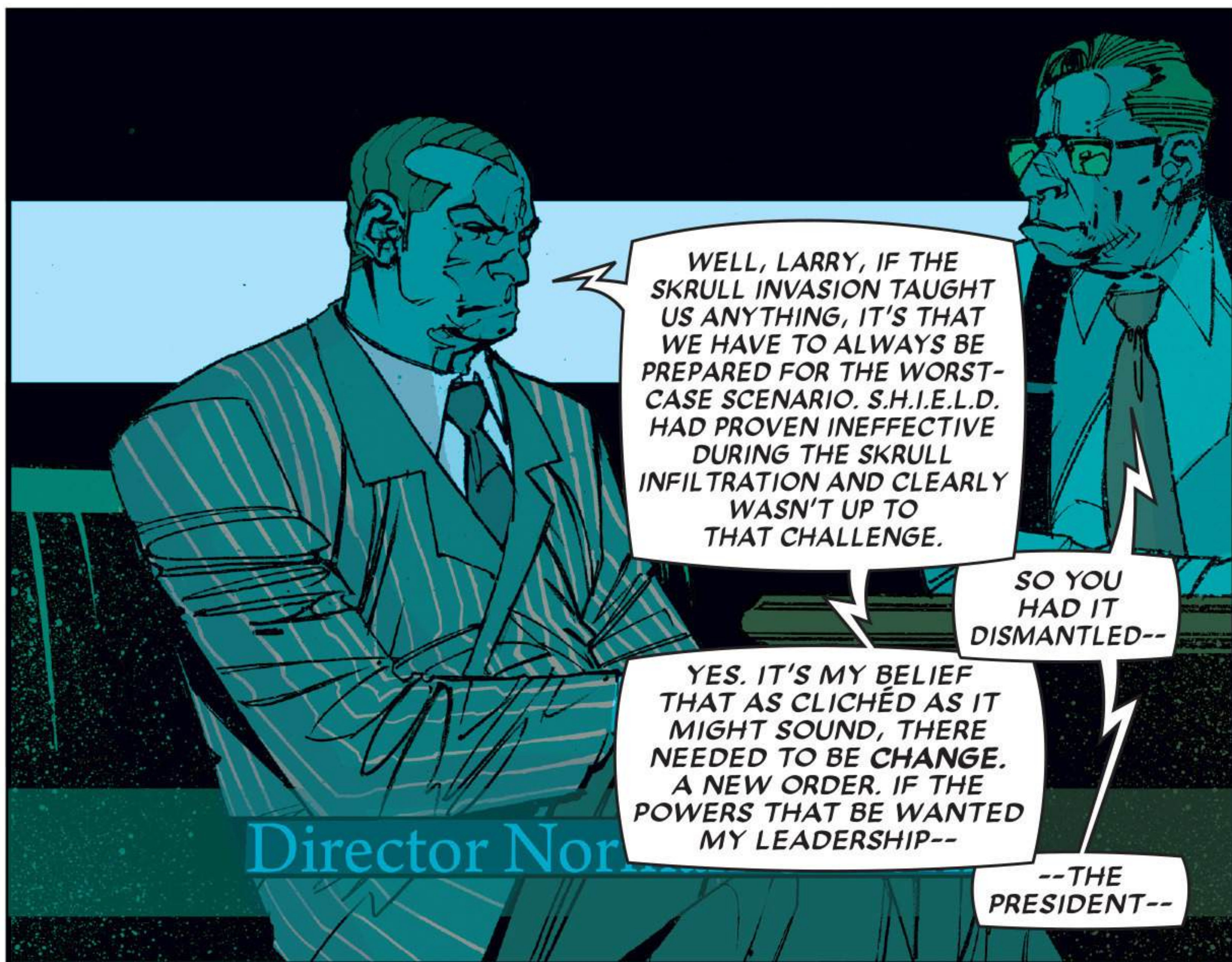
BEFORE THE COMMERCIAL BREAK--I ASKED YOU WHEN YOU WERE FIRST APPROACHED--



THAT'S RIGHT--BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND--

--TO TAKE OVER THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE AND S.H.I.E.L.D.

HOW DID YOU REACT? WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL RESPONSE?



WELL, LARRY, IF THE SKRULL INVASION TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT WE HAVE TO ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO. S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD PROVEN INEFFECTIVE DURING THE SKRULL INFILTRATION AND CLEARLY WASN'T UP TO THAT CHALLENGE.

SO YOU HAD IT DISMANTLED--

YES. IT'S MY BELIEF THAT AS CLICHÉD AS IT MIGHT SOUND, THERE NEEDED TO BE CHANGE. A NEW ORDER. IF THE POWERS THAT BE WANTED MY LEADERSHIP--

--THE PRESIDENT--



--YES, THE PRESIDENT. THEN THE PRESIDENT HAD TO BE WILLING TO TRUST ME. AND TO HIS CREDIT HE DID.



WHOA! TAKE A LITTLE TRIP AND THE ENTIRE WORLD CHANGES!



ISN'T THAT THE GUY WHO CHASED YOUR ASS OUT OF DODGE? WHO SICKED THOSE SUPER-POWERED DEGENERATES ON YOU?

AND HOW DO YOU FEEL THINGS ARE GOING?



NOW LOOK AT HIM: THE HEAD ##### IN CHARGE! GUESS THE PEOPLE GET WHAT THEY DESERVE!

WELL, LARRY, IT'S EARLY. THAT SAID, IT'S ABOUT GETTING OUR DUCKS IN A ROW--PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE: A DIRTY BOMB, ALIEN INVASION--



--WHATEVER IT WILL BE--WE'LL BE READY AND WE'LL BE WAITING.



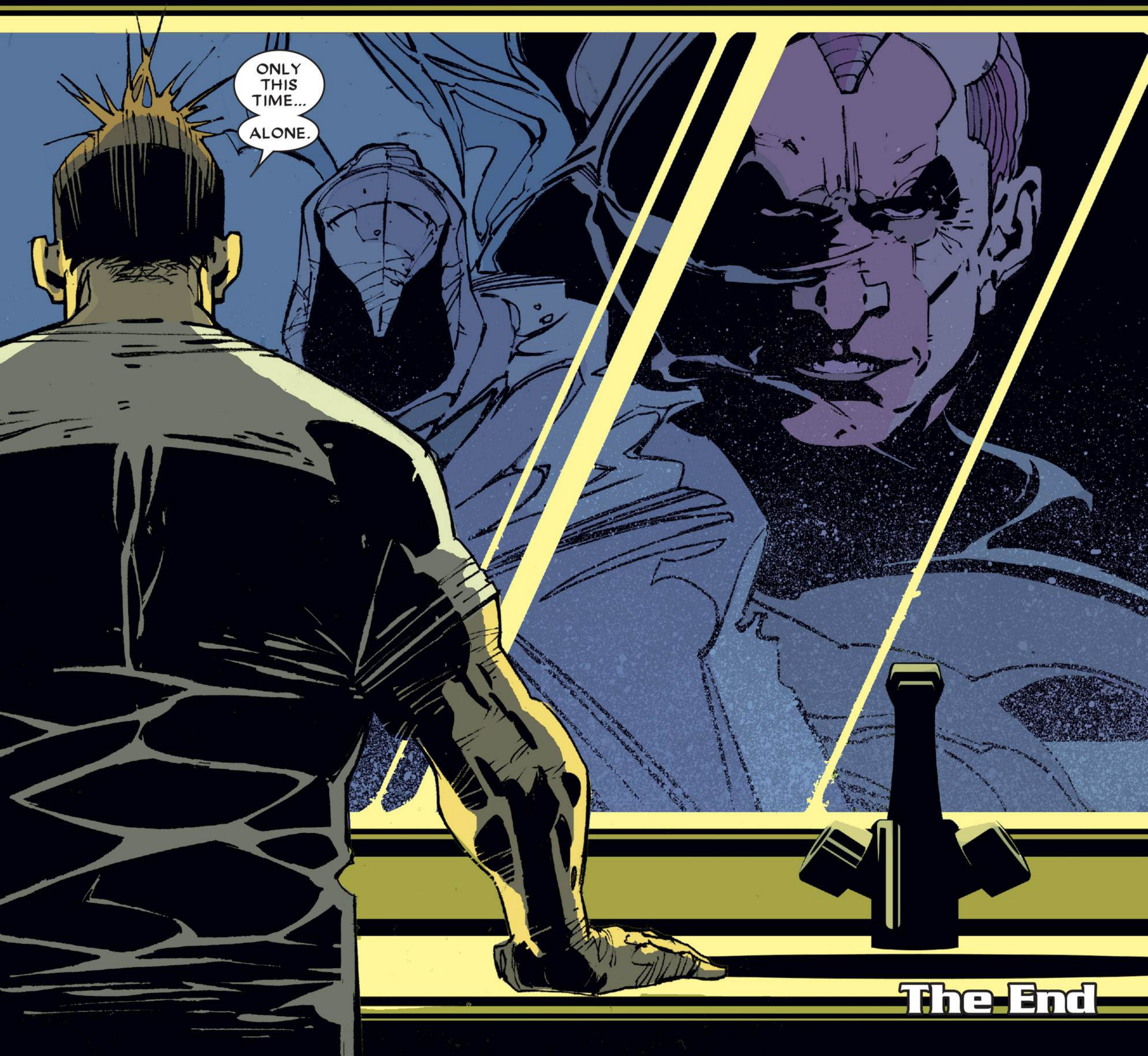
YOU CAN TAKE THAT CHECK TO THE BANK--



YOU HEAR THAT #####! LET'S TAKE THE MONEY AND GO BACK AND KICK THAT #####'S TEETH OUT HIS ###!

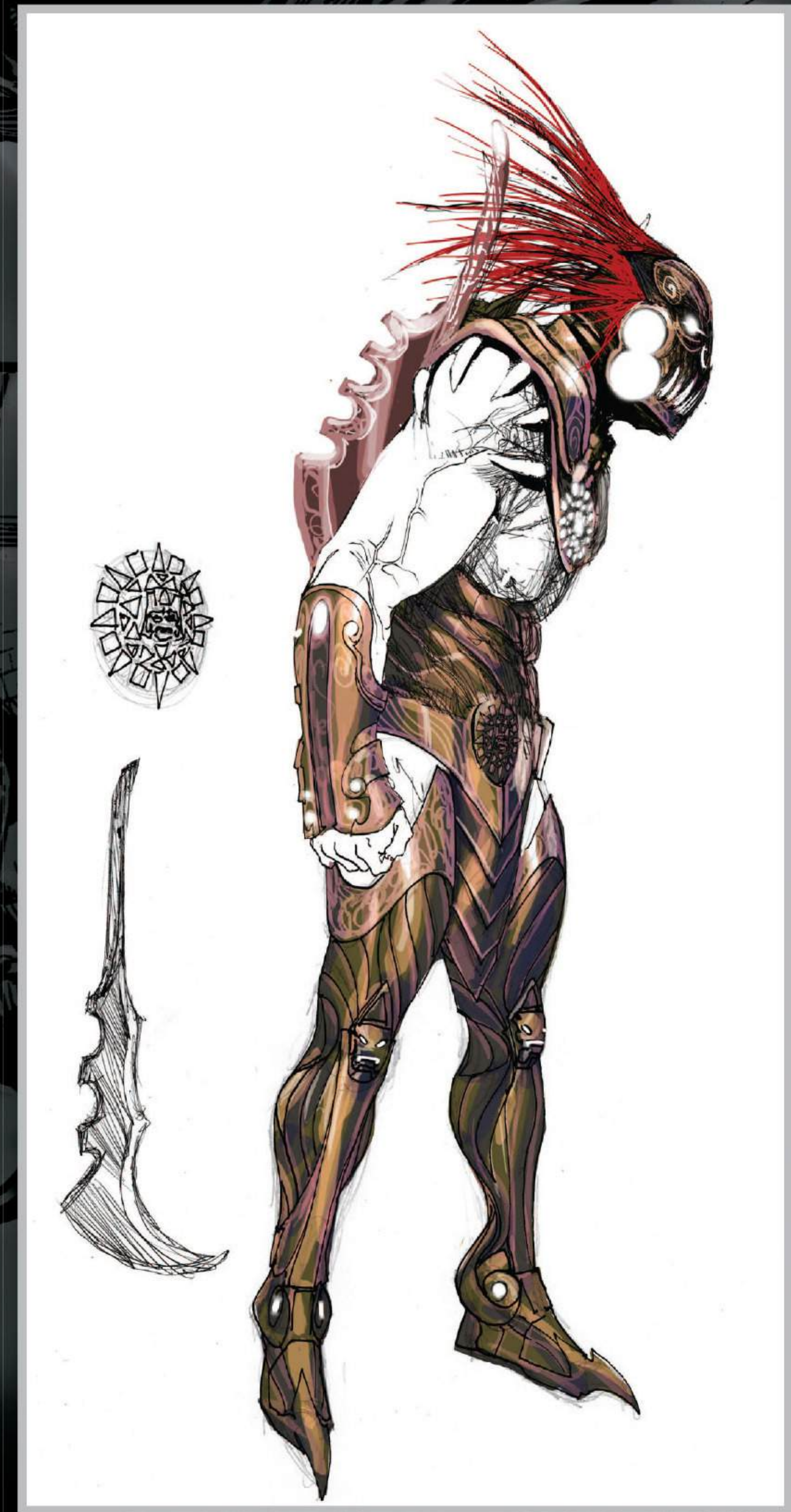
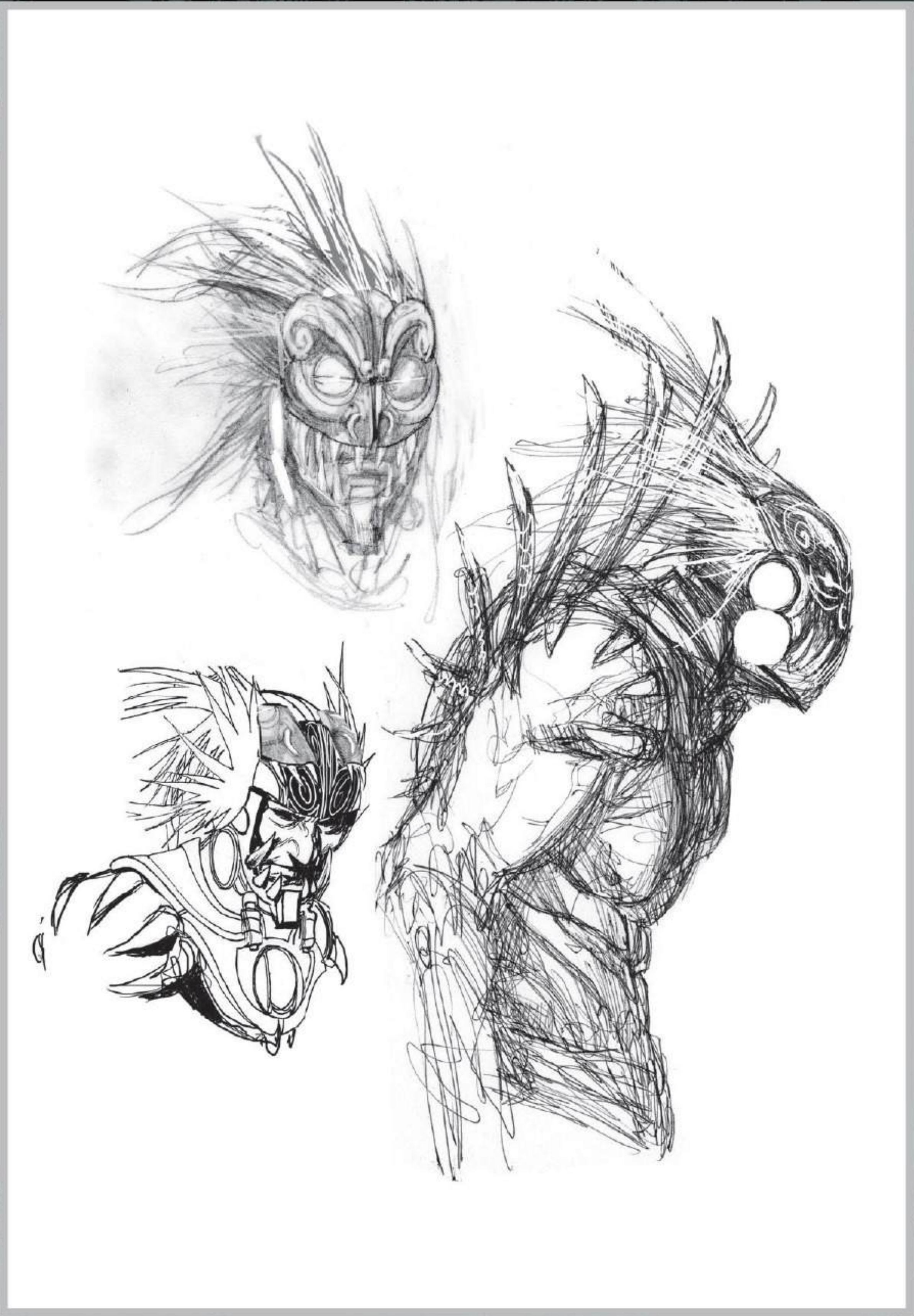
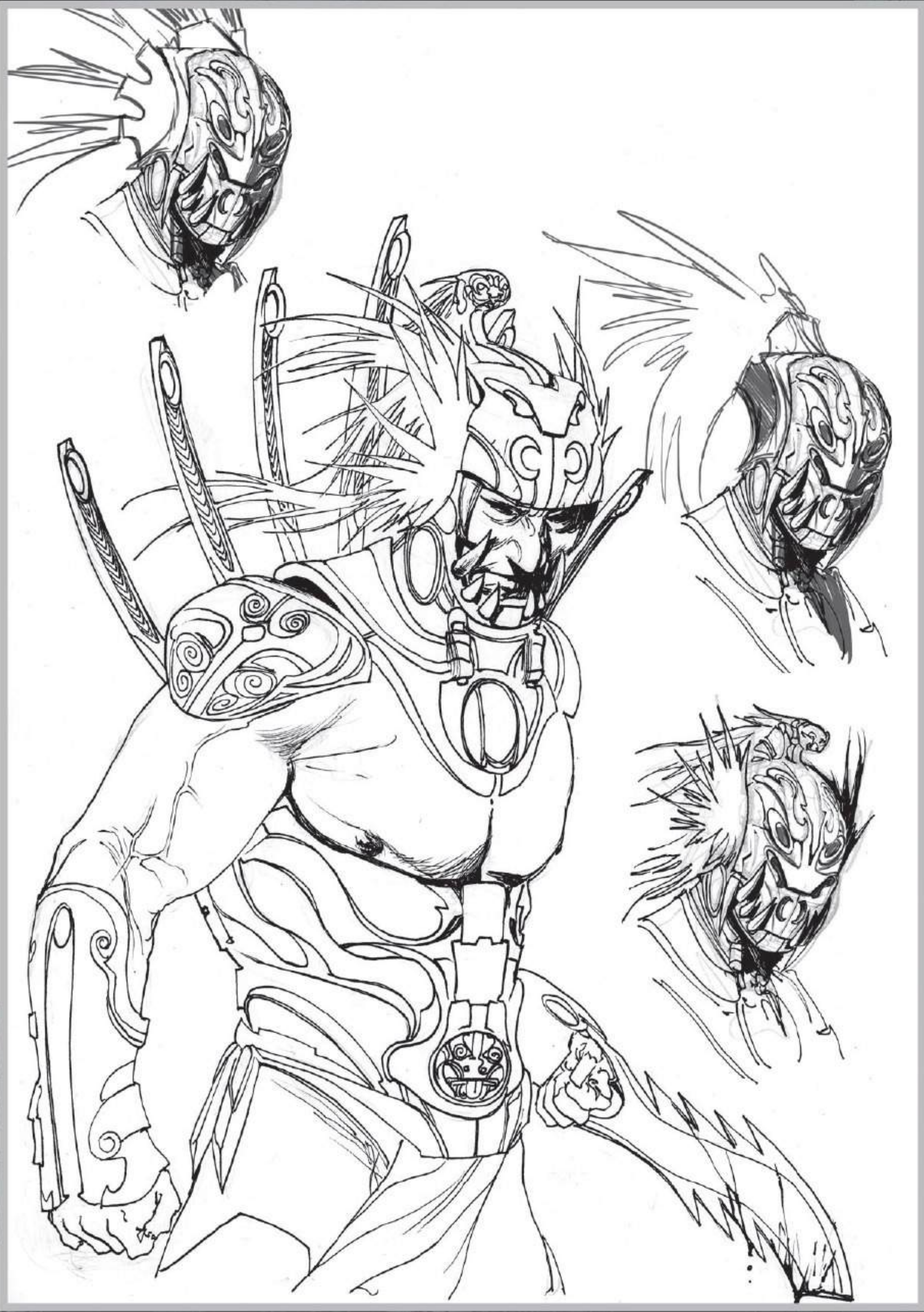


STOP THINKING! EMBRACE YOUR RAGE!



The End

TOLTEC CHARACTER DESIGNS
BY JEFTE PALO



MARC SPECTOR IS DEAD — IS JAKE LOCKLEY ABOUT TO JOIN HIM?

When your multiple personalities are driving you so crazy you have to kill one of them, it's time for a vacation! Marc Spector was a soldier. A mercenary. A killer. And now, thanks to Moon Knight, he's a dead man.

But the avatar of Khonshu lives on in the form of Jake Lockley — a more laid-back personality who just wants to take a nice, relaxing trip in Mexico. But for him, this means bashing his way through bare-knuckle-fighting tournaments, hiring on for a "snatch and grab" on behalf of a rich and well-armed land baron, and going toe-to-toe with a guy named Frank Castle — who the criminal element knows better as the Punisher.

AAA never recommended a trip like this, but then again, Moon Knight is no ordinary tourist!

Collecting *Moon Knight* #26-30 — written by Mike Benson (HBO's *Entourage*) and illustrated by Jefferie Palo (*Black Panther*).

PARENTAL ADVISORY

MARVEL

